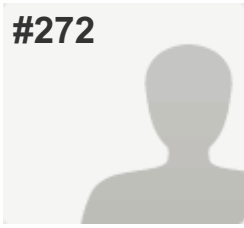


# Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#272



**COMPLETE**

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**Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)**

First Name	Joe
Last Name	Amon
Affiliation	Director, Human Rights Watch
Email Address	amonj@hrw.org

**Q2: Title of your recommendation**

Prioritize post-release planning and linkage to appropriate medical care, HIV medication and case management services, housing and other social service benefits for HIV-infected inmates upon release from custody.

**Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation**

Implement discharge planning program to ensure continuity of care in the community through counseling and transitional processes including:

- pre-release counseling and scheduling of first post-release appointment with a community HIV care provider;
- pre-release linkage to local HIV case management services and facilitation of access to HIV medication post-release;
- sufficient HIV medication upon release to bridge the gap until the patient can see a HIV care provider;
- linkage to providers of immediate transitional housing and access to assistance for permanent housing placement

**Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)**

*Respondent skipped this question*

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**Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)**

Care Committee: Develop recommendations to support access to care and treatment in order to maximize the rate of HIV viral suppression. The Committee will promote linkages and retention in care to achieve viral suppression and promote the highest quality of life while significantly decreasing the risks of HIV transmission. Recommendations will also ensure a person centered approach is taken and that access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and health care services is available.

Housing and Supportive Services Committee: Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

Data Committee: Develop recommendations for metrics and identify data sources to assess the comprehensive statewide HIV strategy. The Committee will determine metrics that will measure effective community engagement/ownership, political leadership, and supportive services. It will also determine metrics that will measure quality of care, impact of interventions and outcomes across all populations, particularly identified sub populations such as transgender men and women, women of color, men who have sex with men and youth. In addition, the Committee will evaluate to determine optimal strategies for using data to identify infected persons who have not achieved viral suppression and address their support service, behavioral health, and adherence needs.

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**Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

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**Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

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## Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

**Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?**

HIV positive prisoners face a high risk of treatment interruption upon release from custody. Treatment interruption can be associated with increased morbidity and the development of drug-resistant strains of HIV and decreased medication effectiveness. As a result of the interruption, patients can develop higher viral loads, which increase the risk of disease progression and HIV transmission. Ensuring continuity of care through effective transitional services for HIV positive prisoners following release decreases the risk of treatment interruptions.

**Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following**

*Respondent skipped this question*