



# HAB HIV Core Clinical Performance Measures for Adult/Adolescent Clients: Group 1



- Antiretroviral treatment of maternal HIV-1 infection, and
- Antiretroviral chemoprophylaxis to reduce the risk for perinatal HIV-1 transmission

The benefits of antiretroviral therapy for a pregnant woman must be weighed against the risk of adverse events to the woman, fetus, and newborn. Although ZDV chemoprophylaxis alone has substantially reduced the risk for perinatal transmission, antiretroviral monotherapy is now considered suboptimal for treatment of HIV-1 infection, and combination drug regimens are considered the standard of care for therapy. Initial evaluation of an infected pregnant woman should include an assessment of HIV-1 disease status and recommendations regarding antiretroviral treatment or alteration of her current antiretroviral regimen.

This assessment should include the following:

- Evaluation of the degree of existing immunodeficiency determined by CD4 T-cell count,
- Risk for disease progression as determined by the level of plasma RNA,
- History of prior or current antiretroviral therapy,
- Gestational age, and
- Supportive care needs.

Decisions regarding initiation of therapy should be the same for women who are not currently receiving antiretroviral therapy and for women who are not pregnant, with the additional consideration of the potential impact of such therapy on the fetus and infant.

Further, use of ZDV alone should not be denied to a woman who wishes to minimize exposure of the fetus to other antiretroviral drugs and therefore, after counseling, chooses to receive only ZDV during pregnancy to reduce the risk for perinatal transmission.<sup>1</sup>

## References/Notes:

<sup>1</sup>A “provider with prescribing privileges” is a health care professional who is certified in their jurisdiction to prescribe ARV therapy.

<sup>2</sup>Recommendations for Use of Antiretroviral Drugs in Pregnant HIV-1-Infected Women for Maternal Health and Interventions to Reduce Perinatal HIV-1 Transmission in the United States

(<http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/ContentFiles/PerinatalGL.pdf>)