

HIV outreach and return to care

November 10 2017, by Paul Govern

When chronic disease patients let their care lapse and fail to show for clinic appointments, it may behoove clinics to reach out and encourage a return to care.

In the case of HIV patients in eastern Africa, reaching out within eight days of a missed clinic appointment is associated with a twice-greater likelihood of a return to care, according to a [retrospective study](#) by Peter Rebeiro, Ph.D., and colleagues.

The longer the delay in reaching out to no-shows, the less likely a return to care becomes, the study shows.

The team used data from 34,522 no-show [patients](#), adjusting their analysis for a variety of patient factors. The study appears in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*.

"The re-engagement of individuals lost to care is an essential and understudied stage in the HIV continuum of care," the authors wrote. "Our observations [...] have the potential to inform both the possible benefit and optimal timing of such interventions."

More information: Peter F. Rebeiro et al. Observational Study of the Effect of Patient Outreach on Return to Care, *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* (2017). [DOI: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000001474](#)

Provided by Vanderbilt University

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