

HPTN 052 RECRUITMENT IN ZIMBABWE



UZ Clinical Research Centre
Harare Parirenyatwa CRS
UZ-UCSF CTU



HPTN 052 Recruitment Team

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HPTN 052 Recruitment area
140 km around Harare

Statistics (main study)

Month	Screening	Enrolment
22 Oct 2007	15	0
Nov 2007	30	6
Dec 2007	14	8
Jan 2008	28	1
Feb 2008	18	5
Mar 2008	17	6
TOTAL	123	26

Target screening

12 - 14 couples per week (Actual - 9)
48 - 56 couples a month

Target enrolment

3 couples per week (Actual - 2)
12 couples a month

Reasons why people are willing to screen and enrol

1. Seeking care and treatment (Primary care)
2. In need of supportive counseling in relation to HIV status
3. In need of free treatment due to the high cost of medicines
4. Seeking information and clarity on HIV serodiscordance - meaning of serodiscordance not clear in the community

Reasons why people are not willing to screen and enrol

1. Reluctance to participate in research - fear of being used as "Guinea pigs"
2. Insufficient knowledge on research
3. Reluctance to disclose HIV status - fear of social harms such as stigma and discrimination
4. Uncertainty over confidentiality of clinic records in relation to HIV status
5. Fear of side effects of antiretroviral drugs
6. Fear of unavailability of drugs when the study ends
7. Not willing to take drugs early

Biggest challenge to meeting enrolment target

CD4 cell counts outside protocol specified range with more above the upper limit of the CD4 entry window than below.

Recruitment strategy

Dissemination of HPTN052 project information to adults within Harare and surrounding areas (140km radius) by partnering various stakeholders including AIDS service organizations (ASO) and medical institutions using posters and brochures.

Venues

1. AIDS service organizations

- Centres offering voluntary counseling and testing e.g. New Start centres
- Centres offering post-test support services e.g. Moving-on clubs, Tsungirirayi centre, The Centre
- Other UZ-UCSF projects (mobile VCT,

MIRA, HPTN046, Beerhall study)

- Information dissemination and life skills training organizations e.g. Deseret International, Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service

2. Health facilities

- Hospitals (both private and public)
- Private medical practitioners
- Local authority health centres e.g. City of Harare primary care clinics

3. Religious organizations

- Anglican Church
- Apostolic Faith Mission
- Salvation Army

4. Workplaces

- Forestry Commission
- Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
- First Bank
- SWIFT
- DELTA CORPORATION
- David Whitehead
- Dairy Board Zimbabwe
- Grain Marketing Board

• National Railways of Zimbabwe Community Involvement

Recruitment team works in close liaison with the Community Advisory Boards (CAB) in Harare, Epworth and Chitungwiza. HPTN052 is represented by a study CAB member in the Harare CAB.

Current Activities

1. Bi-monthly meetings with the local CAB to give study updates and address any areas of concern.
2. Presentations to gatherings (church groups, AIDS support groups, Primary Care clinics, workshops)
3. Distributing study information sheets and recruitment posters
4. Engaging and working closely with other ASOs and fellow UZ-UCSF projects eg partnering with Population Services International (a local ASO) during its outreach activities

Planned Activities

1. Giving out incentives such as HPTN052 T-Shirts to recruitment centres and key stakeholders
2. Officially launching the study HPTN052 to the nation in May 2008
3. Advertising the project through radio and television if approved by the local IRB.