


14th Annual Conference of the
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)



National HIV Nurses Association

Dr Ed Wilkins
North Manchester General Hospital

14-15 June 2012, Manchester Conference Centre



Halve It
EARLY TESTING SAVES LIVES.

Halve It campaign update
Why we must Halve It

Dr Ed Wilkins
North Manchester General Hospital

Halve It has been funded by Gilead Sciences Ltd, and BHIVA.

We know there are significant benefits of early diagnosis to the...



...Individual



...Community



...State

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The total numbers are up...

91,500 people living with HIV in the UK

24% do not know they have HIV

50% are diagnosed late

Reference: Health Protection Agency. HIV in the UK: 2011 Report.

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And there are significant challenges ahead...

- HIV rates are still rising in the UK



- Sustainability of testing programmes is under pressure



- Key healthcare professionals are still missing the signs of HIV



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And there are significant challenges ahead...

- Many people still avoid HIV testing because of stigma



- Limited access to testing services across a range of settings



- Not enough incentives to diagnose HIV early



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We have effective treatments for HIV

- They increase life expectancy
- They prevent onwards transmission



BUT

Only if HIV is diagnosed and treated in time



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And testing is easier...

- Rapid Testing – results within 5 minutes
- Shift from complex pre-counselling to information and brief discussion
- Can be done in a wider variety of settings



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Yet we still see missed opportunities to diagnose...



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We have the evidence that testing initiatives can work



9 HIV programmes supported to date

UK AND IRELAND
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMME

42 HIV programmes supported to date



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And we are making good progress:

- ▶ **January 2010:** The Conservative Party identified HIV as a priority area to tackle in order improve the nation's public health



- All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS support secured for Halve It

- ▶ **April 2010:** the Halve It position paper 'Early testing saves lives' was published



- ▶ **November 2010:** HIV was identified as priority area in Healthy lives Healthy people White Paper, including proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework

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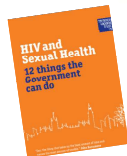
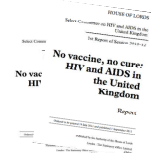
And in 2011:

- ▶ **February 2011:** Halve It submit QOF proposal to NICE. Submission not included in 2012/13 QOF menu



- ▶ **March 2011:** NICE's guidance on testing among men who have sex with men (MSM) and African communities

- ▶ **July 2011:** Government calls for prioritisation of HIV testing



- ▶ **December 2011:** Halve It messages prioritised in key THT policy document

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And in 2012:

- ▶ **January 2012:** prioritisation of late diagnosis of HIV in the Public Health Outcomes Framework



- February 2012:** Performance improvement indicator across London in primary care

- ▶ **April 2012:** NAT QOF updated submitted to NICE (endorsed by Halve It & other key stakeholders)



- ▶ **May 2012:** NAT HIV testing Action plan (supports Halve It goals)

- ▶ **June onwards:** UK National Screening Committee review of opportunistic testing in general practice, and Department of Health Sexual Health plan (strategy)



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The UK is a leader in Europe

- Increasing numbers of HIV tests undertaken annually since 2000



- UK levels of HIV testing are higher than in many European countries

- More than 50% of all people with HIV in UK have undetectable levels of HIV



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BUT

There is still **much more** to be done to achieve a goal of **reducing** late diagnosed by **2015**

**50%**

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What we are asking of government:

- Prioritise HIV testing services, training and education as part of local prevention plans



- Commit to sustaining existing testing service provisions and expand testing services into new settings

- Request the development of local incentives to promote HIV testing



- Ensure that provisions are made to support treatment of increased numbers of newly diagnosed patients

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What we are asking of you:



Make contact with your director of Public Health (when they are appointed) and ask if they need any assistance in planning for implementation of the late diagnosis indicator in the public health outcomes framework



Identifying patients with HIV who can get involved with Health and Wellbeing boards (HealthWatch)



Meet/write a letter to your local MP and ask them to contact your local authority and Director of Public Health to urge the importance of HIV testing



Get involved with NATs activist network to raise the profile of HIV testing locally

Halve It ✓

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Together we can Halve It!

AHPN African Health Policy Network
Improving Health and Wellbeing

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON
HIV/AIDS



British HIV Association
BHIVA

MEDICAL
FOUNDATION
& SEXUAL
HEALTH



HIV PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION



Royal College of
General Practitioners -
Sex, Drugs and HIV Group



Visit www.Halve It.org.uk

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