

Entry Points into HIV Care

Justification for Private Sector HIV Treatment Programs

- Private physicians have been managing HIV-infected patients, including ART, for a longer period than the public sector

Strengths

- Assist to decongest the limited and overstretched public sector programs

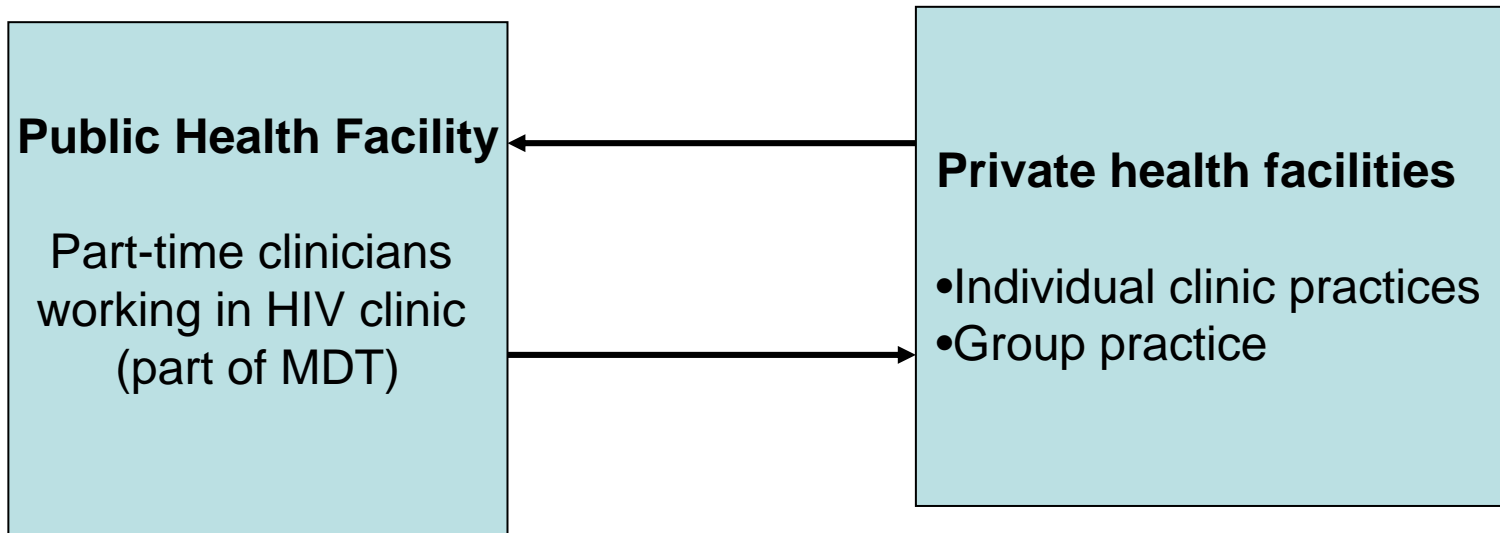
Limitations

- Services are usually offered on a profit basis
 - Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are often prescribed according to cost
 - Prescriptions are not in keeping with the national guidelines
- Many patients accessing care in private hospitals are not on medical aid covering: ART, ancillary services -- psychosocial and nutritional support, and home visits
- Some patients who eventually get on ART may not sustain their treatment
 - Poor adherence
 - losses to follow up
- No systematic/regular monitoring and reporting of side effects due to ART

Justification for Private Sector Programs

- Ensures service delivery is in accordance health department guidelines.
 - Similar ARV regimens and laboratory monitoring schedule
- Allows for smoother transition of patients to the public ART sector programs
 - Non-disrupted HIV treatment
 - Sustainable comprehensive HIV care program.
- Identification of complementary ARV procurement and distribution system

Approaches



Concerns...

- Creating seamless private Public partnership
- Criteria for selection of private health facilities
 - Assuring equitable distribution of HIV treatment among patients
- Retention of trained clinicians
- How to keep private physicians motivated (incentives)