People Living with HIV/AIDS in U.S. Nursing Homes: A Summary

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### Background

Advances in life-saving antiretroviral therapies make it possible for PLWH to require NH care for age-related illnesses rather than advanced HIV disease. Little is known about the current characteristics or treatment of PLWH in NHs or how they differ from their counterparts of the past\(^{3}\).

### Approach

Data for analysis linked 2011-2013 datasets of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Medicare claims to the Minimum Data Set (MDS 3.0) and an all-payers prescription dispensing database. A nationwide sample of Medicare-eligible PLWH was identified by having at least one HIV prescription or HIV/AIDS diagnosis codes in Medicare claims data. Anyone not Medicare eligible, lacking a complete MDS record or prescription data, was excluded. Characteristics were summarized for all complete cases and a subsample of only admission complete cases was compared to a previously published description of admissions\(^{3}\) to assess changes over time.

### Results

Of 3 million people in the 3 years of data, 7056 PLWH were identified in US NHs. Different from average NH residents, PLWH were on average African American (52%) males (73%) with mean age 60 (SD 12.17) and living in the south (47.1%) (T1, F2). Medicaid covered 93% and 54% report pain. MDS tools\(^{2}\) found 67% were cognitively intact (BIMS 13-15 points), but lack full independence (ADL score >5) (F1). Shifts in active diagnoses since 2000 were statistically significant (i.e., less dementia (21% to 8.6%), more hepatitis (7.5% to 16%) (T1). Of the 84.7% on HIV treatment, the most common was a single tablet, three drug combination (efavirenz + emtricitabine + tenofovir) (F3).

### Limitations

Data are limited to NHs with links to prescription dispensing database.

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\(^{3}\) MDS tools: Brief Interview for Mental Health Status (BIMS) measures cognitive abilities on a scale from 0-15 and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) measure physical functioning on a scale from 0-15.

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### Table 1: Summary of characteristics for all complete cases and comparing the characteristics of admissions assessments in the MDS 3.0 (2011-2013) to admission assessments from MDS 1.0 (1998-2000).

**Figure 1. Characteristics of all complete cases (N=7056)**

**Figure 2. Percent of PLWH by assessment type and census region (N=7056)**

**Figure 3. Most common combinations of medications prescribed to treat HIV from 2011-2013**

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**Conclusion**

This is the first description of the HIV population in NHs in over a decade. The mean age has increased nearly 20 years, the population is increasingly male and the profile of active diagnoses has shifted. PLWH in NHs are significantly different from their historic counterparts and from the average NH resident. Understanding the unique health care needs of the aging HIV population in NHs is key to appropriate resource planning, competency training of NH staff and providers and ensuring the best healthcare for PLWH in NHs.