



Dear Colleague,

We are writing to inform you of a study known at the "Incentives Study – Phase 2" at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS that may interest your clients/patients:

A randomized clinical trial evaluating the role of contingent reinforcement in the engagement and retention of Drug Users in HAART programs – STOP HIV – Phase 2 ("Treat").

Drs. Mark Hull and Julio Montaner are the principal investigators. This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Boards of UBC, Providence Health Care, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Interior Health and IRB Services.

Eligible participants must:

- be HIV+ and ≥ 19 years of age
- have a history of drug use in the past 3 months (opiates, cocaine, amphetamines, alcohol, or benzodiazepines)
- have not received antiretroviral therapy within the last 12 months
- plasma viral load >100 copies/mL for > 6 months
- not be pregnant
- be eligible for, and willing to initiate HAART

Eligible and consenting participants will be followed for 52 weeks of study, with one additional follow-up visit at 76 weeks. We believe the intervention, using financial reinforcement to encourage clinic attendance and HAART adherence, may be a useful tool for engaging and retaining some of our most vulnerable patients in needed medical treatment. **Study interventions take place in addition to, not in place of, existing care providers and support systems.**

If you know anyone who would be eligible and interested in participating in this study, please contact the **Project Coordinator, Saira Mohammed** either by email at smohammed@cfenet.ubc.ca or phone at **778-945-5674 ext. 203**.

Sincerely,

Saira Mohammed
Project Coordinator

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