



August 1, 2018

Hugh J. Hurwitz
Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St., NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Mr. Hurwitz:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represent 131,400 members in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, as well as internationally, I am writing to advocate for evidence-based treatment for HIV for all inmates in the prison system.

In 2017, the AAFP published a position paper on the health impact of incarceration on inmates and on communities.¹ The position paper notes that "Inmates in correctional facilities have significantly higher rates of disease than the general population, and correctional facilities are often an ill-equipped provider of last resort for the medically underserved. This population tends to suffer in greater numbers from infectious disease, mental health problems, and substance use and addiction."

The AAFP urges the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) to strongly encourage all its correctional institutions at the federal and state level to follow evidence-based guidelines for the [prevention of Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) through screening](#) and treatment of all patients infected with HIV. By providing appropriate HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) including medication, condoms, education, and frequent screening for sexually transmitted infections as well as treatment, including beginning antiretroviral therapy as early as possible, health outcomes for inmates infected with HIV can be dramatically improved.

The AAFP acknowledges that the FBOP has adopted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) guidelines for treatment of HIV, however, treatment guidelines are often not implemented consistently or efficiently across systems. We encourage the FBOP to monitor and support the successful implementation of antiretroviral treatment programs and prevention strategies based on sound evidence-based guidance from HHS and others.

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If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Pamela Carter-Smith at pcarter@aafp.org or (800) 274-2237, ext. 3162.

Sincerely,



John Meigs, Jr., MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

¹ AAFP Incarceration and Health: A Family Medicine Perspective (Position Paper). Retrieved from AAFP website on June 11, 2018. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/incarcerationandhealth.html#low>.

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