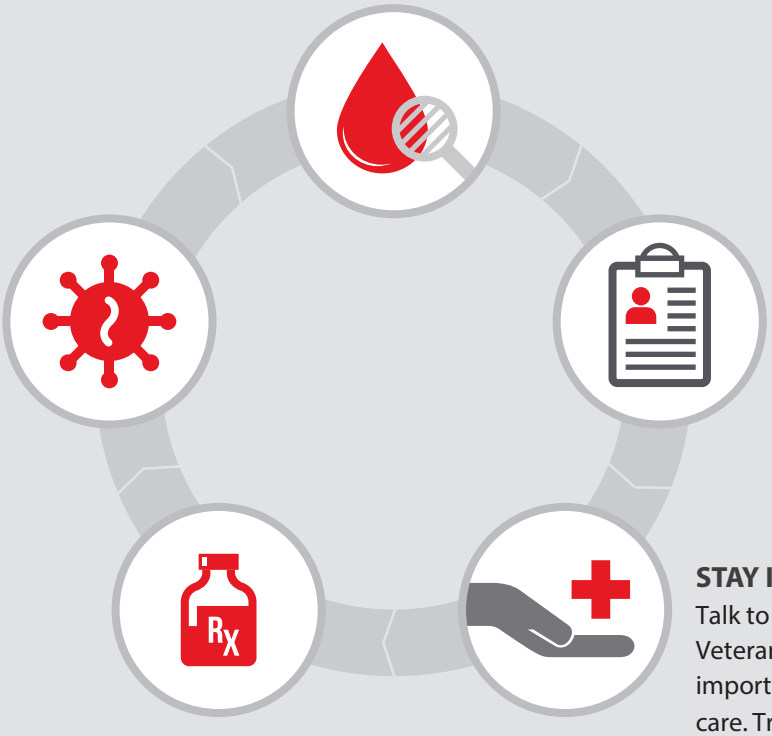
THE HIV CARE CONTINUUM

Approximately 1 in 8 people living with HIV don't know it, and 62 percent of Veterans in VA health care have never been tested for HIV.

Help get more HIV positive Veterans through the HIV Care Continuum to fully benefit from treatment.

DIAGNOSE:
Be proactive and make HIV testing part of your patients' routine care. VA is encouraging you to test every Veteran at least once in his or her lifetime. For patients who test negative, talk to them about keeping it that way.



LINK TO CARE:
Have an HIV positive Veteran? Help your patient get the appropriate counseling, referrals, and treatment right away to stay as healthy as possible and prevent passing HIV on to others.

VIRAL SUPPRESSION:
ART will lead to very low levels of HIV in the blood, suppressing the virus. While HIV will not be cured, at these low levels, an infected person will live healthier, longer, and greatly reduce the chances of transmitting the virus to others.

STAY IN CARE:
Talk to HIV positive Veterans about the importance of routine HIV care. Treatment is a lifelong process and the VA is one of the largest providers of HIV care in the US.

PRESCRIBE ART:
Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is still the mainstay of treatment of HIV and has become more potent, available, and tolerable resulting in decreasing morbidity and mortality over the past several years. ART involves using three or more antiretroviral drugs every day and new guidelines recommend prescribing ART for every patient diagnosed with HIV.

SOURCE:
www.hiv.va.gov

VA
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Patient Care Services