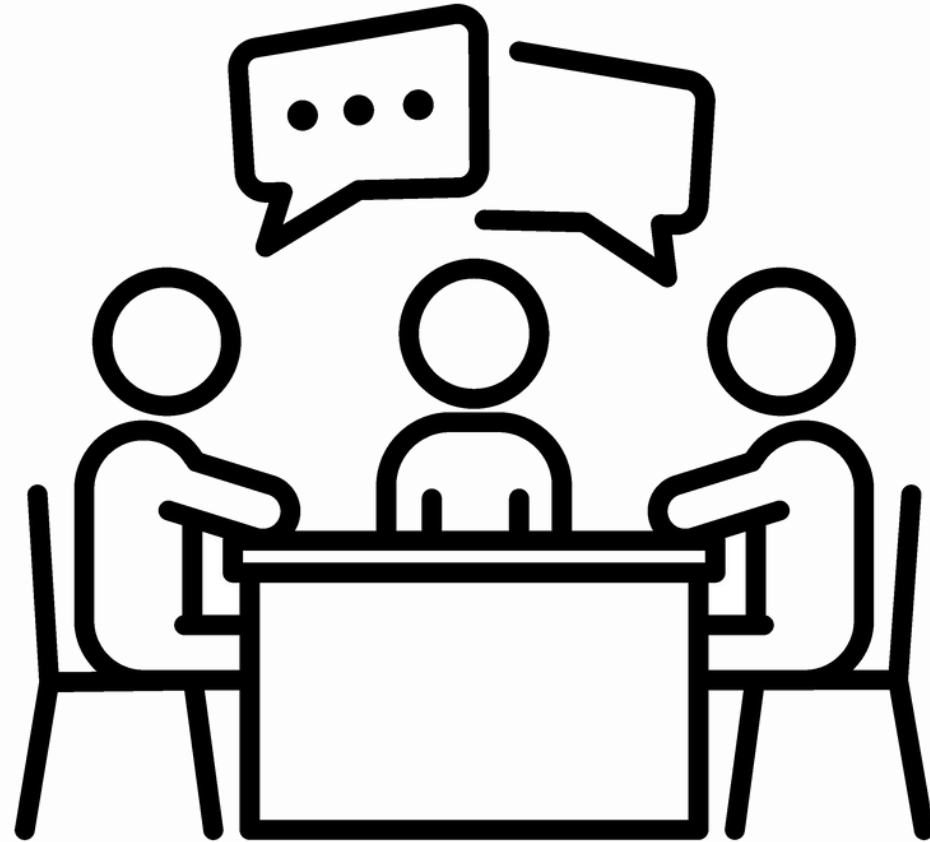


# HPG Protocols

March 2025



# Introduction



## **Current Members of the Workgroup**

Gary Snyder, Rachel Schaffer, Guadalupe Diaz, Najia Luqman, Andre Ford and Natasha Gorham

## **Activities**

Review current language, suggest changes, lead discussions during HPG meetings to get approval to make modifications.

## **What's Next?**

Incorporate the items discussed today and continue to work on new items for review.



# HIV Language Guidance

# Background / Overview

HIV stigma can be found across the history of the HIV epidemic, throughout media and social marketing prevention campaigns, as well as policies, research literature, and among the people we interact with day to day. The language used to describe HIV has evolved over time, from terms that stigmatized people to more respectful and empowering language.

## Early terms

- GRID: Gay-related immune deficiency, an early name for HIV
- Gay plague: A term used to describe HIV in the early days of the epidemic
- AIDS victims: A term that was used to describe people living with HIV, but was later replaced by more respectful language

The HPG has the ability to help lead the conversation for preferred wording when it comes to prevention and care services/programs across Pennsylvania. Other entities have provided various forms of a language guide and the Protocols Work Group has been approached to develop one for the HPG.



## Person-first language

- People living with HIV: A term that describes people by who they are, not by their diagnosis
- People with poor adherence: A term that replaces "poorly adherent"
- People with viraemia: A term that replaces "viraemic patients"



## Other considerations

- Avoid using the word "infection" and instead use more neutral terms like "acquire" or "transmit"
- Use "comprehensive prevention of vertical transmission" instead of "mother-to-child transmission"
- Use "end the epidemic" instead of "eliminating HIV"

Language norms vary by culture, geography, and time. It's important to be respectful and humble when using language about HIV.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the five divisions of in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis have developed guidance documents the PADOH DOHH has utilized for field staff. These are cumulatively 52 pages. The Protocols Work Group would like to create a one-sheet to simplify things for the most important language to be used.



# Request for submissions / ideas.

**Thank you.**