



Putting the ART Prescriber at the centre of stock management, supply security and adherence support

July 2012

Background:

There are several elements to maintaining PLHIV on ART regimes that produce the best health outcomes. Key amongst these is maintaining up-to-date stock levels of the medicines required to support their treatment regime at primary health clinic or ART clinic level. ART prescribers and PLHIV often find themselves at the mercy of procurement and supply systems that deliver the wrong drugs at the wrong time, or leave them with empty cupboards and stock interruptions.

APMG and DEXER LLC have worked together to develop an easy-to-use Excel-based[®] software package that puts the prescribing doctor and the HIV-health support team at the center of ART ordering and management.

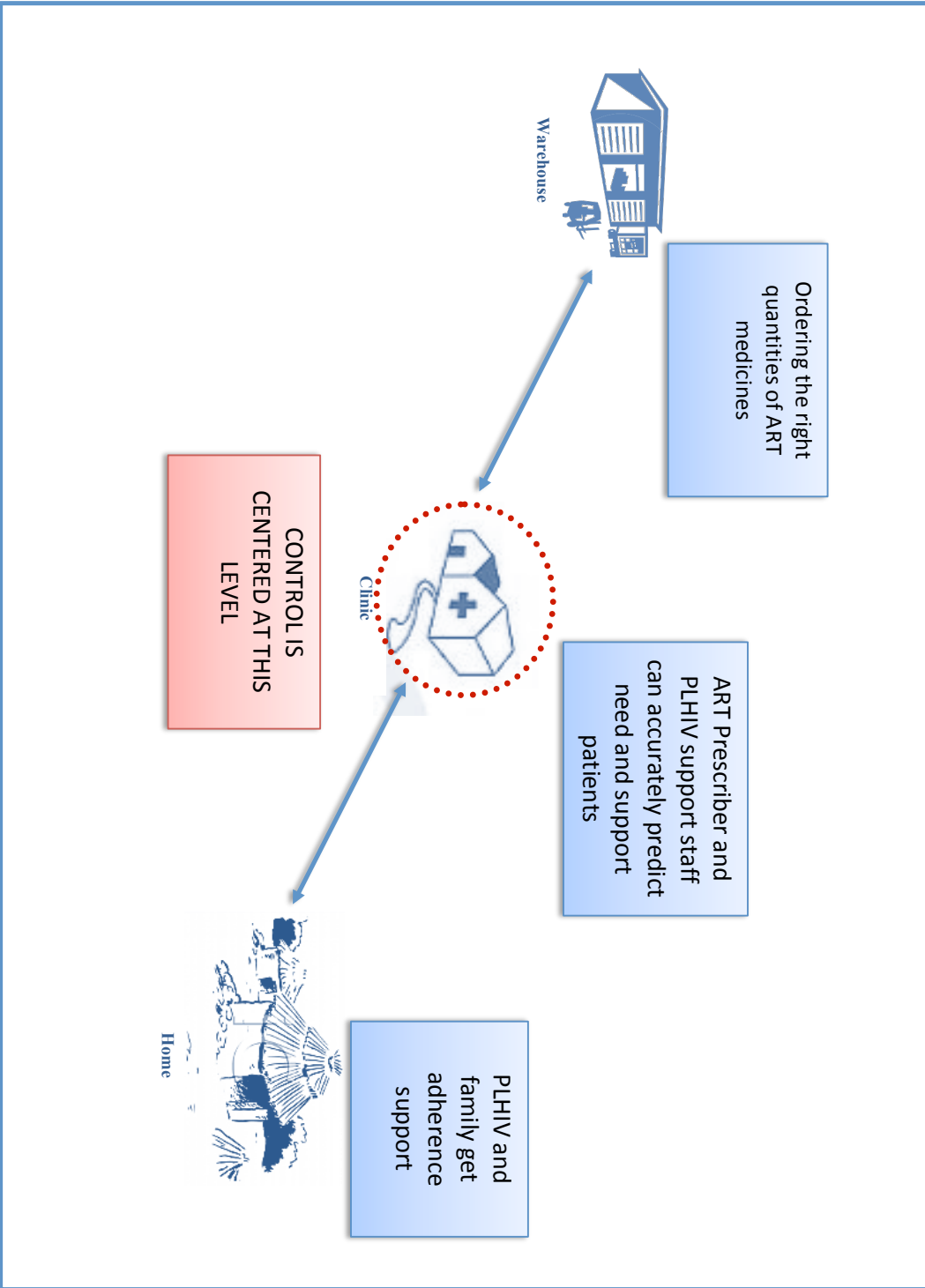
How the package works:

This software package is built around the prescriber's actual practice. Current patients details are entered in, along with their current ART combination. The package allows the prescriber to:

- see what stock of each drug they have on hand in the clinic
- see how much of each medicine each patient should have on hand at home (if they are taking the right dose at the right time)
- estimate how many new patients they are likely to add to their practice in the next month
- fill out an ordering form for the central stores that takes into account current stock, needs of existing patients and estimates of needs of new patients

This tool allows HIV support workers to look at individual stock levels in the home and time their community outreach to coincide with the PLHIV running low on stock at home. In this way, the prescriber and HIV health team is placed at the center of the procurement, supply and stock management system.

This simple to use package is available in Russian and English (and can easily be made available in other languages at short notice) and comes with a tailored package of training and mentoring provided by APMG and DEXER.



Client feedback:

“This software has significantly reduced time and eliminated errors in calculating drug needs by hand. It has prevented us from having unforeseen interruptions in supply and had a positive effect on adherence.”

Dr A D Ismailove
Director
Republican AIDS Center,
Biskek
Kyrgyzstan

May 2012

What the package can do:

You enter in all your patients and their treatment regimes and this package calculates how much of each drug you need in order to prescribe for that population.

You enter in data on testing levels and number of people returning positive results and the package helps you to predict how much of each combination you are likely to need to order to meet new patient demand

You enter in the script information you write for an individual patient the package prompts you to send someone to visit the patient when his or her stock levels are getting low at home.

Installation and support:

APMG and DEXER provide an initial training at the time of installation of the software and assist the clinic staff to enter their current patients' data. Additional information about levels of HIV testing, ratio of positive results and other data is added to assist with ART the ordering calculations.

This is followed up with regular face-to-face mentoring and support visits distance support to ensure data quality and to assist in placing the first order to the central supply agency.

Experience:

The software has been installed and is now being used daily in Republican AIDS Centers in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in Tajikistan and in Kyrgyzstan. A network version that will connect all AIDS Treatment Centers in a country with the national AIDS authority and with the central medical supplies agency is in production.

ART prescribers have reported that using the software has greatly reduced the time it takes to order ART from central stores and the accuracy of their orders. They can quickly review a patient's treatment regime and easily see which patients are running low on tablets.

If you are interested in more information on APMG and DEXER's ART forecasting and management software and training, please contact Dave Burrows (dave@apmglobal.com.au) or Lou McCallum (lou@apmglobal.com.au)