



# WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC

## HIV/AIDS Services

Whitman-Walker Clinic is the largest community-based provider of HIV/AIDS services in the DC metropolitan area. The Clinic is dedicated to providing high-quality, comprehensive, integrated and accessible health care services to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the early 1980s, the Clinic was among the first in the nation to respond to the AIDS epidemic. As a result of the increased demand for HIV/AIDS services in metropolitan Washington, three regional Whitman-Walker Clinic centers were opened: Northern Virginia in 1988 (which closed in 2009); Suburban Maryland in 1991 (which closed in 2005); and the Max Robinson Center in Southeast DC in 1992. The Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center at Whitman-Walker Clinic opened in 1993 in Northwest Washington and is the Clinic's primary medical and research facility. Today, both of the Clinic's facilities provide primary outpatient health care services for people with HIV/AIDS.

All services are available to the Spanish-speaking community through bilingual staff and volunteers. Other translation services are available on request.

Whitman-Walker Clinic provides a continuum of HIV/AIDS care that includes:

- **HIV counseling and testing:** Free confidential testing for HIV is offered to the general public with results available in 20 minutes. These tests look for the presence of antibodies against HIV and will not show any exposure to HIV for three to six months after infection.
- **Primary outpatient medical services:** HIV clinic, gynecological services, dental services, HIV medications, nutritional assessments and counseling and clinical trials.
- **Medical adherence:** Help for clients to stick to their treatment regimen, keep appointments and understand their doctor's instructions. Assistance is also available to identify and remove barriers to successful treatment, such as housing, food and child care.
- **Behavioral health care:** Individual, group and family psychotherapy; peer and professionally facilitated support groups; intensive addiction treatment program and substance abuse counseling; harm reduction and relapse prevention groups.
- **Community health:** Outreach directed toward high-risk populations including gay and bisexual men, African-Americans and Latinos/as. Staff and volunteers reach out to these populations on the street, in bars and clubs and at street fairs and community festivals.

- o **Legal and entitlements counseling:** Entitlements, denial appeals, HIV discrimination cases, HIV impact litigation, wills, powers of attorney, custody and immigration.
- o **Day treatment:** The Austin Center for Health and Living (Northwest DC) and the Max Robinson Center for Health and Living (Southeast DC) provide a supportive community for people living with HIV/AIDS. Clients can receive medical/nursing care, counseling, socialization, group discussion on a variety of important topics, and other services. Each day, clients are provided with two nutritionally balanced meals and transportation.