

« French Guidelines for the Medical Management of HIV Infection : Experts Group' Recommendations », 2006 Report, directed by Pr Patrick Yéni

French Guidelines on HIV Standard of Care : Associations Act As Spokemen !

The French coalition « *Treatment and Therapeutical Research* » called TRT-5 (1) has taken part in revising French guidelines for management of HIV infection for many years.

In 2006, while these recommendations were to be mainly medically centered, the associations committed themselves to gain a wider care point of view in order to take into consideration the rapidly evolving and changing face of the epidemic. We were set up as an « *ad hoc* » associative group which were able to respond swiftly and with the ability to deal with the sociological aspects of HIV care.

We contributed to the whole report, but we focused particularly on chapters such as « *Follow up of seropositive people* » and « *Organisation of the care system* ».

On top of medical advances, because PLWH (People Living With HIV) need comprehensive care including prevention and sociological aspects, and because public health must pay attention to people's vulnerability in particular situations such as those encountered by prisoners, transsexuals, and immigrants... The group has written several chapters dealing with these topics.

Thus, parts of the recommendations covering prevention, care in jail, adherence to treatment, care access, filler technics for sunken cheeks have been entirely written by the associative group. This reflected not only our desire to integrate these topics particularly important to PLWH, but also the recognition by the medical experts of both the necessity of treating such subjects, and their own limitations in writing about them appropriately ; this has been the first time that our expertise has been so clearly recognised and used as such.

This has been a huge job for the activists who have contributed to the work, but also for the medical practitioners who must learn to talk with their patients on very sensitive subjects such as sexuality and prevention, quality of life, depression... These guidelines, updated every two years, also include a schedule of actions to apply the recommendations so as to improve the medical standard of care as well as the quality of life and the social dispositions for PLWH.

It is our duty to ensure that what we have contributed in writing will be effectively and efficiently applied in the daily lives of PLWH.

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(1) TRT-5 is a coalition of 8 French NGOs advocating for the needs of PLWH.



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