

**GRADE summary of evidence for pairwise comparisons of frequency of clinic visits**

Quality assessment							Summary of Findings				
Participants (studies) Follow up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							With Standard of care	With Less frequent clinic visits		Risk with Standard of care	Risk difference with Less frequent clinic visits (95% CI)
<b>Mortality</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: All cause mortality)											
4985 (5 studies) 24 months	serious <sup>1</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency	143/3287 (4.4%)	154/1698 (9.1%)	OR 1.12 (0.60 to 2.10)	44 per 1000	5 more per 1000 (from 17 fewer to 44 more)
<b>Morbidity</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Opportunistic infections or WHO stage III/IV)											
1100 (3 studies) 12.8 months	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias	45/394 (11.4%)	49/706 (6.9%)	OR 0.61 (0.35 to 1.05)	114 per 1000	41 fewer per 1000 (from 71 fewer to 5 more)
<b>Retention</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Loss to follow-up)											
15989 (5 studies) 12 months	serious <sup>3</sup>	serious <sup>4</sup>	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>3,4</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency	4581/5836 (78.5%)	9501/10153 (93.6%)	OR 1.90 (1.21 to 2.99)	785 per 1000	89 more per 1000 (from 30 more to 131 more)
<b>Adherence</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Dichotomous measures)											
2442 (3 studies) 12.8 months	serious <sup>1,5</sup>	serious	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>1,5</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency	844/926 (91.1%)	1450/1516 (95.6%)	OR 2.00 (0.53 to 7.60)	911 per 1000	42 more per 1000 (from 66 fewer to 76 more)
<b>Viral failure</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Detectable viremia or viral rebounds)											
7048 (6 studies) 24 months	serious <sup>1</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency	821/5241 (15.7%)	193/1807 (10.7%)	OR 0.83 (0.51 to 1.36)	157 per 1000	23 fewer per 1000 (from 70 fewer to 45 more)

<sup>1</sup> Inclusion of observational studies with selective inclusion to the intervention is likely to bias results

<sup>2</sup> High heterogeneity due to differences in settings and time periods within the ART scale-up

<sup>3</sup> Only one study adjusted for covariates and adjustment is somewhat crude

<sup>4</sup> I-squared is > 80%

<sup>5</sup> Definitions of outcome differ

**GRADE summary of evidence for pairwise comparisons of frequency of clinic drug pick-ups**

Quality assessment							Summary of Findings				
Participants (studies) Follow up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							With Control	With Less frequent drug refills		Risk with Control	Risk difference with Less frequent drug refills (95% CI)
<b>Mortality</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: All cause mortality)											
1860 (1 study) 4 months	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>1</sup>	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>1</sup> due to imprecision	0/806 (0%)	0/1054 (0%)	-	See comment	-
<b>Retention</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Loss to follow-up)											
12388 (2 studies) 15 months	serious <sup>2</sup>	serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>2,3</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency	2433/2806 (86.7%)	9053/9582 (94.5%)	OR 1.93 (0.62 to 6.04)	867 per 1000	59 more per 1000 (from 65 fewer to 108 more)
<b>Adherence</b> (CRITICAL OUTCOME; assessed with: Dichotomous measures)											
2442 (1 study) 12.8 months	serious <sup>4</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>5</sup>	reporting bias strongly suspected <sup>6</sup>	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> <sup>4,5,6</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision, publication bias	844/926 (91.1%)	1450/1516 (95.6%)	OR 2.00 (0.53 to 7.6)	911 per 1000	42 more per 1000 (from 66 fewer to 76 more)
<b>Viral failure</b> (assessed with: Detectable viremia or viral rebounds)											
1860 (1 study) 4 months	serious	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious	undetected	⊕⊕⊕⊕ <b>VERY LOW</b> due to risk of bias, imprecision	23/806 (2.9%)	31/1054 (2.9%)	OR 1.03 (0.6 to 1.78)	29 per 1000	1 more per 1000 (from 11 fewer to 21 more)

<sup>1</sup> Zero events reported

<sup>2</sup> Short follow-up time; 4 month period allowing for the evaluation of a single pick-up cycle

<sup>3</sup> Very high I-squared

<sup>4</sup> Data provided in a poster abstract; Very few details provided to assess risk of bias

<sup>5</sup> Very few non-events

<sup>6</sup> Poster abstract from 2004; Never published into a paper