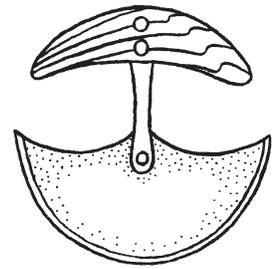


Information for Inuit Community Members

Fact Sheet Is HIV a Disability?



Challenges for people living with HIV

Discrimination and living with the stigma associated with having HIV create major challenges for people living with HIV. Because some people may be worried about being discriminated against, they may not get the care and treatment they need.

Although treatments and medications can improve the health of people living with HIV, there can be complications (such as drug resistance) and drug side effects. Coping with these situations can sometimes be challenging for people living with HIV. The complications or side effects (such as wasting) may be visible to others, or may cause emotional or physical pain. Although some situations may be temporary and disappear after days or weeks, others may last a long time or be permanent.

Who can help with these challenges?

- Community and family support
- Medical professionals – doctors, nurses, pharmacists
- Psychiatrists/psychologists/social workers
- Occupational therapists
- Recreation therapists
- Rehabilitation specialists/physiotherapists
- Vocational/employment counselors

