Research has consistently demonstrated the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in reducing HIV-related morbidity and mortality. Since 1998, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has issued Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1-Infected Adults Guidelines, which are updated periodically by an expert panel as new clinical information emerges regarding drug efficacy, safety, and convenience. While DHHS guidelines are intended to assist prescribers in choosing initial regimens, clinicians may not always adhere to them due to a failure to understand or consult guidelines or a lack of awareness of their existence. As prescribers are tasked with offering a regimen that is effective, tolerable, and long-term sustaining, it is important to ascertain strategies to extend the success of initial ART regimens. Few U.S. studies have examined compliance of treatment patterns with DHHS guidelines, particularly among treatment-naive adults.

The study design was a retrospective observational analysis of Mississippi Medicaid prescription claims data (January 2008 to December 2011). Medicaid beneficiaries were included in this analysis based on the following inclusion criteria: Age 18 or older at ART initiation, Not pregnant, Receiving ART for at least 6 months after the index prescription date, Enrolled in Medicaid for at least 6 months prior to the index prescription date. Beneficiaries were considered treatment naïve if they were confirmed as use of a minimum of three drugs including two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) in combination with one protease inhibitor (PI) or one nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) that was listed as “preferred” or “alternate” regimens. Between January 2010 and December 2011, an ART regimen meeting DHHS guidelines was expanded to include two NRTIs in combination with one integrase inhibitor.

A total of 758 HIV-positive beneficiaries met eligibility criteria and initiated ART between July 2008 and September 2011. Overall, the majority were Black (78.0%), 53.3% were female, and the average age was 38.9 years. Gender

Operational Definitions
- Beneficiaries were considered treatment naïve and starting initial ART if they were continuously enrolled and had no ART claims for at least 6 months.
- Between July 2008 and September 2011, we defined an ART regimen meeting DHHS guidelines as use of a minimum of three drugs, including two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) in combination with one protease inhibitor (PI) or one nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) that was listed as “preferred” or “alternate” regimens.
- Between January 2010 and December 2011, an ART regimen meeting DHHS guidelines was expanded to include two NRTIs in combination with one integrase inhibitor.

Objectives
The objective of this study was to retrospectively assess compliance with DHHS-issued ART guidelines among treatment-naive individuals who are Medicaid beneficiaries in Mississippi.

Methods
Data
The study design was a retrospective observational analysis of Mississippi Medicaid prescription claims data (January 2008 to December 2011). Sample Selection Criteria
- Medicaid beneficiaries were included in this analysis based on the following inclusion criteria:
  - Age 18 or older at ART initiation
  - Not pregnant
  - Enrolled in Medicaid for at least 6 months prior to the index prescription date
  - Receiving ART for at least 6 months after the index prescription date

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Results
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References

Acknowledgements
The work reported was sponsored by the MS-ORI program in the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management as part of the retrospective drug use analysis activities conducted under contract with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid or the University of Mississippi.