



Statement: Charlie Sheen's doctor on his HIV status

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Statement from **Dr. Robert Huizenga** Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, UCLA:

Four years ago, Charlie Sheen came to see me with an upper viral infection followed by joint aches, swallowing complaints and then progressive severe headaches. During this infection, his HIV tests "seroconverted" (acutely changed) from negative to positive. He was immediately placed on four antiretroviral drugs and his HIV viral blood levels thankfully dropped to undetectable. He has tolerated his antiretroviral cocktail and by faithfully complying with the daily pills, his viral HIV load has remained consistently undetectable.

The urgent dilemma that both Charlie and I recognize is that there are 1.2 million other Americans currently living with this diagnosis. Shockingly, up to 20% of these individuals are unaware of their HIV status and sadly 60% are not adequately being treated. This leads to 50,000 new diagnosis and 18,000 HIV deaths yearly in this country.

I anticipate Charlie can save many more lives coming forward with his revelation than I could ever have aspired to as a doctor.

With Charlie remaining dedicated to his treatment regimen, I expect the HIV will only minimally - if at all - affect his predicted life expectancy.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2015/11/17/statement-charlie-sheen-doctor-robert-huizenga-ucla-hiv-diagnosis/75925518/>