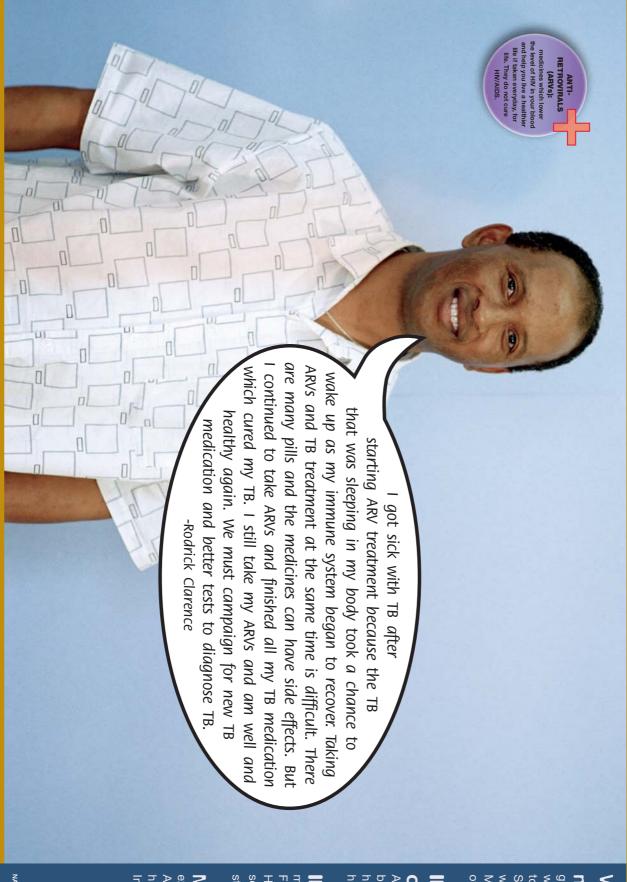
IMMUNE RECONSTITUTION SYNDROME (IRS)

Some people who start ARV treatment at very low CD4 counts can get ill soon after starting his is often a result of a condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome (IRS).



When you start ARV

medication your immune system gets stronger. This can cause germs that were sleeping in your body to wake up too. This is called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome (IRS). Some people become ill with TB, Pneumonia, Cryptococcal Meningitis or generally feel sick because of IRS

IRS is not a side effect

Of ARVS and does not mean your ARVs are not working for you. You must be treated for the condition or illness you have and be monitored properly at a hospital.

IRS can be managed and

most people do recover with treatment. Families must get a full explanation about HIV, its treatments and why people sometimes do not survive despite having started ARV treatment.

Make sure a thorough medica examination is done before you start ARVs. All clinics and hospitals should have medicines to treat Opportunistic Infections.



TREATMENT ACTION CAMPAIGN

Plan for Life: Get Tested - Get Treatment - Use Condoms NATIONAL OFFICE: 021-788 3507, KWAZULU-NATAL: 031-304 3673