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| Routine HIV Testing Information |

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends universal and routine HIV screening rather than targeted HIV testing. They suggest that opt-out testing be routinely performed for all patients aged 13-64 years who are seen in health care settings, without a separate written informed consent or required pre- and post-test counseling.

Routine HIV Testing Policy

Health care providers should inform patients during medical encounters in settings that are appropriate and permitting that all patients are tested for HIV as part of routine health care. Information is provided to patients about routine HIV screening verbally or patient receives a handout. The opt-out option is documented in the patient’s chart, if test is declined.

Policies and Procedures

The following information is intended to assist with determining policies and procedures; some of the information provided may not be relevant for your program.

* How to provide HIV education and risk reduction counseling to interested parties
* How to educate/counsel people about the testing available
* How to conduct the HIV test(s) being used
* Creating and using appropriate materials (language, gender, sexual orientation, age, and the local interpretation of these characteristics should be considered)
* How to relieve fears about confidentiality to the person
* How to protect the person’s confidentiality
* Documentation of education, testing, and counseling, if needed
* Appropriate referrals, especially for those who test positive
* Reporting requirements (knowing to whom and how what results are reported (CDC, state, etc.)
* Quality assurance requirements (clinical supervision, training, satisfaction surveys and feedback mechanisms, data/file maintenance, etc.)
* Staff training requirements (to conduct tests; disclose results, provide referrals, etc.)
* Process for conducting confirmatory tests
* Laboratory procedures and/or any agreements with referral laboratory
* Process for informing patients of routine testing
* Determine within clinic flow who will discuss routine tests
* How to document declination of test
* Disclosure of HIV test results