

Implementing Routine HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 5 people infected with HIV are unaware that they are infected...54% of new sexually transmitted HIV infections in the US originate from HIV infected persons who are unaware of their infection.”

Marks G, Crepaz N, Janssen RS. AIDS. 2006; 20:1447-1450

Highlights of CDC Recommendations for Routine HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings

The 2006 CDC Recommendations for HIV Testing in Adults and Adolescents in Healthcare Settings urge providers to include HIV testing as a routine part of healthcare for **all patients** ages 13 – 64 years, regardless of their risk.

Routine HIV testing ensures:

- More people learn about their HIV infection
- Those who learn about their infection will benefit from earlier access to treatment
- There is a reduction in the risk of further transmitting HIV to others

San Mateo County Public Health Support

The STD/HIV Program has developed activities and resources to assist healthcare providers in the public and private sectors to integrate routine HIV testing as a part of patient care. These activities will also help facilitate linkage to HIV specialty care for newly identified HIV infected patients.

Appropriate healthcare settings for implementation of routine HIV testing include:

- emergency rooms or urgent care
- specialty care clinics (e.g., ob/gyn, TB)
- community health clinics (homeless, substance use)
- inpatient care (e.g., labor and delivery)
- correctional health facilities
- pediatric/prenatal care clinics
- other primary care clinics

Activities

Staff Development/Presentations: STD/HIV Program personnel will conduct onsite an interactive presentation designed to enhance understanding of routine HIV testing in healthcare settings. The presentation provides the following:

- An overview of the CDC's *Recommendations for Routine HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings*
- Information and techniques to integrate HIV testing into a primary care visit
- Review of how to disclose HIV test results to patients
- Resources and information for linkage and referral to HIV care, as well as support services for HIV diagnosed patients

Technical Assistance: The goal of technical assistance is to build capacity of healthcare sites to effectively link HIV-positive patients to a continuum of HIV care and services.

STD/HIV Program staff is available to conduct the following services onsite at healthcare sites:

- Disclosure to HIV-positive patients
- Linkage to and retention in HIV primary care
- HIV prevention counseling and support
- Partner counseling, testing, and referral services

Resources and Information: A list of resources, information, and hotlines useful to healthcare providers in managing HIV testing, referral, and linkage to care for HIV-positive patients can be found on our webpage at www.smchealth.org/std.

For information about technical assistance services and/or to request a presentation or other assistance, contact Darryl Lampkin, STD/HIV Prevention Supervisor at 650-573-3643 or dlampkin@smcgov.org.

