



PUBLIC HEALTH

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HIV Counseling and Testing Chapter 246-100 WAC

Washington State Board of Health
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Proposed Rule Revisions

Consent for testing may be included in the general consent or as a separate consent if the individual is:

- Specifically informed HIV testing is to be done, and
- Is provided an opportunity to ask questions and decline testing

Proposed Rule Revisions

- Removes requirement for health care providers to perform post-test counseling
- Adds a requirement that public health officials provide post-test counseling and referral for care as part of partner services

Proposed Rule Revisions

- Gives authority to public health officials to decide the need to contact the HIV-infected person for purposes of partner services
- Requires health care providers to inform patients of the health officers' responsibility
- Requires health officers to remind health care providers of their responsibility to inform patients

Conclusions

This proposed rule revision will benefit state residents in the following ways:

- Reduce barriers to HIV testing (which will increase the number of residents that are aware of their HIV status),
- Enhance the health of individuals who are HIV infected (by receiving treatment earlier), and
- Reduce the number of new HIV infections (patient awareness is key in preventing transmission of HIV).

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