



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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## **HIV Counseling and Testing Chapter 246-100 WAC**

Washington State Board of Health  
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## Overview

- Why CDC issued revised recommendations
- Why local health officials and others recommended rule changes
- The process and stakeholder involvement
- The proposed rule revisions

## The Case for Routine HIV Testing

- Knowledge of HIV infection and behavior
- Where testing takes place and infections are identified
- Late diagnoses and opportunities for treatment

## **CDC Recommendations – HIV Partner Services**

- Strongly recommends partner services include active health department involvement
- Evidence shows that more partners are notified when the health official is involved in partner services

## Why health officials and others recommend rule changes

### Current rules

- conflict with CDC routine HIV screening recommendations
- restrict public health from routinely pursuing partner notification
  - require public health get authorization from the principal health care provider to contact the patient
  - different standard than for other sexually transmitted diseases

## Process and Stakeholder Involvement

- Three rounds of “eastside/westside” meetings
- Discussions with key community groups (Governor’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, planning groups, etc.)
- Materials and information available on websites

## Stakeholder Input and Recommendations

- Recommended other issues be addressed
- Concerned that:
  - consent for testing would not be obtained
  - post-test counseling and referral for care would not be provided
  - providers would not inform patients of health department involvement in partner services

## 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

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