Over 1 million individuals are estimated to be infected with HIV in the United States, about 25 percent of whom do not know their diagnosis. Current data demonstrate an unacceptably high rate of delayed diagnosis.

In September 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised recommendations to include routine testing of all patients 13 to 64 years old without regard to the patient’s known risk for infection. They also recommended that state rules reduce testing barriers for physicians by including consent for HIV tests as part of general consent for other routine tests, and by eliminating requirements that physicians conduct pre-test counseling.

Beginning January 1, 2010, the Washington State Board of Health adopted these recommendations into Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 246-100. The revisions shift responsibility for counseling and partner notification to the local health officer and local health jurisdiction.

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**HIV Testing Information for Medical Providers**

**Washington State Department of Health • Revised State Regulations • 2010**

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**Offer HIV testing for patients 13 – 64 years of age**
- Obtaining consent can be verbal or written and part of consent for other routine tests and medical care.

**Offer HIV testing to women before pregnancy or as early in pregnancy as possible**
- Obtaining consent can be verbal or written and part of a routine panel of prenatal screening tests.

**Provide patients the opportunity to ask questions**
- Provide oral or written information* on HIV, the risks and benefits of testing, how test results will be communicated, and what the results mean.

**HIV Test Declined**
- Discuss and address the reasons for declining HIV test.
- For pregnant women, document in chart.
- For other patients, follow standard practice.
- Re-offer test at another visit.

**HIV Test Performed**
- Provide results and meaning of results.
- Document in chart. Discuss partner testing, risk reduction.

**HIV Negative**
- Provide results and meaning of results.
- Document in chart. Discuss partner testing, risk reduction.

**Repeat Screening**
- Consider retesting pregnant women in 3rd trimester or Rapid Test at time of labor if HIV status is unknown.
- Retest 3 months after high risk** behavior.

**HIV Positive**
- Provide results and meaning of results.
- Provide name of individual and locating information to local health officer.
- Offer counseling or refer patient to local health jurisdiction for counseling.
- Refer patient to local health jurisdiction for partner notification and assistance.

(See endnotes on back)

High risk individuals include patients who initiate tuberculosis treatment, seek treatment for STDs, use injection drugs or are the sex partners of injection-drug users, have multiple sex partners, exchange sex for money or drugs, or are men who have sex with men. HIV screening is recommended as part of STD screening for each new STD visit, and before initiating a new sexual relationship.

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2 Torian L, Wiewel E. 14th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; February 25–28, 2007; Los Angeles, CA.

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**Information for providers**

Washington State Department of Health, HIV Prevention Program:
www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv/prevention/provider/default.htm
www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv/prevention/provider/doclinks.htm

Contact:
Frank Hayes, Health Education and Risk Reduction Coordinator: (360) 236-3486

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For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).