

LEO Release Notes May 2011

Dear C&T Coordinator,

This note is to update you on the “HIV Status” variable that now appears for Counseling and Testing encounters in LEO. This note contains both an explanation of the new LEO functionality and a request for action on your part.

New “HIV Status” Variable

For counseling and testing records, "HIV status" now appears on the encounter summary screen ([LEO Main](#) > [Intervention Select](#) > [C&T Browse](#) > [Encounter Summary](#)) just below the last lab slip listed. It also appears in the table of encounters listed for each intervention ([LEO Main](#) > [Intervention Select](#) > [C&T Browse](#)).

What it is and where it comes from

"HIV Status" is a composite variable generated by the LEO system based on the testing information entered on the lab slip(s) for each encounter. For example, an encounter that reported a preliminary positive result on Lab Slip #1 and a reactive EIA and WB on Lab Slip #2 would generate an HIV Status of “Positive.” A negative rapid test result or a non-reactive EIA standard test would generate an HIV Status of “Negative.” A preliminary positive rapid test result with no confirmatory test reported would generate an HIV Status of “Preliminary Positive.” Other values for HIV Status are possible, depending upon the testing reported on the lab slips.

Note that only *actual HIV test results* such as EIA, WB, or IFA results and rapid test results are used to compute HIV Status. The ‘Summary Interpretation’ from the conventional lab slip and the ‘Final HIV Test Result’ from the CIF are NOT used to compute HIV Status. Therefore, you must enter the actual HIV test result(s) to generate the “HIV status” variable.

How to Use the HIV Status Variable

The HIV Status information is intended as a quality assurance check as you examine encounter records to determine which may need additional follow-up. For instance, you may exam records with an HIV Status of ‘Positive’ to ensure that appropriate referrals to care and partner services were offered. ‘Preliminary Positive’ records should be reviewed to determine if any would benefit from additional follow-up to provide confirmatory testing to the client. And ‘Follow-up Required’ HIV Status outcomes are indicative of inappropriate or unexpected testing algorithms that should be identified and corrected. The new HIV status variable will assist you in identifying records for review and follow up more easily.

PLEASE NOTE: The HIV Status functionality is currently in 'beta' status, and may not represent the actual HIV status of the client. This is a result of missing system validations that have allowed a variety of data entry errors not accounted for by the algorithm that calculates the “HIV Status” variable.

The inaccuracies in the HIV Status variable will be corrected by a combination of data entry correction (see below) and the implementation of system validations in a future patch that will prevent data entry errors related to testing algorithms. Once the system validations are in place, we expect the HIV status variable will be finalized (alpha status).

Your Action Items

To fully utilize the HIV Status information, testing data must be correct in the system. To ensure better data accuracy, OA staff are currently constructing a more comprehensive set of system validations that will be implemented in an upcoming patch. This will ensure accuracy of the HIV Status variable for data entered beginning FY2011-2012.

For the current fiscal year, you can help improve data accuracy by:

1. Correcting existing data entry errors; and
2. Clarifying data entry requirements to data entry staff.

1. Correct Data Entry Errors

Please examine your records for the following HIV Status values and make corrections if necessary, as indicated in the table below.

| HIV Status | Why It Occurs | Your Action | Future OA Follow-up |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Blank | Incomplete records sometimes show 'blank' HIV Status | Mark the record complete if it is. Otherwise no action necessary. | LEO patch will correct the system to populate incomplete records with HIV Status |
| | Incomplete or inconsistent testing information on standard lab slip – e.g., EIA-reactive with no WB or IFA recorded, or EIA reactive and EIA non-reactive, etc. | Examine the conventional lab slip and correct data entry. | LEO patch will require lab slip with reactive EIA to include WB or IFA testing. |
| Not Tested | Only summary interpretation listed on conventional lab slip for conventional testing | Enter EIA and WB or IFA information as appropriate on the conventional lab slip. | LEO patch will not allow saving conventional lab slip with only summary interpretation. |

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|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Follow-up Required | Usually reflects unexpected testing sequence, such as a rapid negative followed by a confirmatory test. | Correct any data entry errors – for instance, by deleting and re-entering lab slip information in the correct sequence, or correcting testing outcomes. If the testing sequence actually occurred, please enter information on the TIR indicating why the testing sequence was conducted. | No action required. |
| Preliminary Positive | Only a preliminary positive rapid test result was entered. | If no confirmatory sample was collected for additional testing, this HIV Status is correct – no action required. However, if the rapid lab slip indicates a confirmatory sample WAS collected, either the confirmatory testing results should be entered, or this value should be changed to ‘no’ and the appropriate section of the TIR completed. | LEO patch will require confirmatory testing information to be entered when the rapid lab slip indicates that a confirmatory sample was collected. |

The easiest way to find and correct errors is to go to the table of encounters listed for each intervention ([LEO Main](#) > [Intervention Select](#) > [C&T Browse](#)) and sort by HIV status. As you make corrections for each record, note that the HIV Status on the encounter summary screen will update immediately, but the HIV Status in the table of encounters will not update until the next day.

Remember, while the HIV status variable on the encounter summary screen updates in real time, the variable on the encounter list updates overnight in order to prevent system slow-down. Keep this in mind as you make corrections to your data.

2. Clarify Data Entry Requirements to Staff

Most of the issues related to HIV Status are caused by a few common data entry errors. They are listed below.

Types of errors:

- Entering ‘summary interpretation’ only for conventional lab slips. Please direct staff to enter EIA and/or WB/IFA information from the conventional lab slips.
- Entering EIA only for confirmatory tests. A confirmatory test following a preliminary positive rapid test result *should* include either a WB or IFA result, even if the EIA result is negative. If it does not, you will need to determine whether the missing WB/IFA result is simply a data entry error, or if the laboratory did not conduct the test.
- Entering conflicting outcomes for EIA-WB or IFA tests. If you have a sequence of outcomes that you believe is correct but is not producing the expected HIV Status value, please contact OA at LEOHelp@cdph.ca.gov for troubleshooting assistance.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the accuracy of LEO data for both quality assurance and reporting purposes. We value your partnership in this endeavor as we all strive to produce the most effective interventions in this time of limited resources.

If you have questions, please contact your OA Operations Advisor or e-mail your question, to LEOHelp@cdph.ca.gov. If your question is about a specific record, please include the OAID number.