

ASSEMBLY BILL 1894 – Health Care Coverage and HIV Testing Talking Points

Assembly Bill (AB) 1894 (Krekorian, Chapter 631, Statutes of 2008) requires individual and group health care service plans and health insurers, on or after January 1, 2009, to provide coverage for testing HIV in medical care settings regardless of whether the testing is related to a primary diagnosis.

Purpose:

To increase the accessibility and availability of HIV testing in medical care settings, and thereby increase routine HIV testing in California. In September 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued *Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health Care Settings* to encourage routine HIV testing for persons aged 13 to 64 years.

What this means for HIV testing in California:

- 1) Routine HIV testing in hospitals and clinics will now be covered by a patient's insurance, regardless of the primary diagnosis.
- 2) California may see an increase in routine HIV testing in medical care settings.
- 3) Routine HIV testing may lead to a reduced number of Californians who are unaware of their HIV status and test late for HIV infection.
- 4) Routine HIV testing may also aid in the reduction of HIV infections that progress to an AIDS diagnoses.
- 5) Medi-Cal fee-for-service will continue to reimburse medical care providers for HIV testing related to a primary diagnosis and for HIV testing of pregnant women during prenatal care and labor and delivery.

Resources:

Information related to medical coding for routine HIV screening is available at:
http://aahivm.org/images/stories/pdfs/brochure_cpt_guide_routinehivtest.pdf.

CDC Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health Care Settings is available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm>.

The Office of AIDS (OA) guidance memo regarding CDC recommendations for HIV testing is available at:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/CTTLetterCDCTestingGuidelines2011107.pdf>.

OA talking points on HIV testing in the United States is available at:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/News2008-08-08TalkingPtsCDCHIVTestMMWR.pdf>.