



# HIV Testing Information and Resources for California Clinicians

## Find an HIV Test Site

Both ANONYMOUS and CONFIDENTIAL HIV testing are available in California.

**CDC National HIV and STD Testing Resources**

<http://www.hivtest.org>

National HIV testing site locator

**California AIDS Clearinghouse**

<http://www.hivinfo.org/>

California county information and links to local health partners

**AIDS Hotline of California**

<http://www.aidshotline.org/>

Extensive searchable database of organizations providing HIV/AIDS services in California

## Consultation Services



**National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center**

- Advice on rapid and standard HIV testing
- Help with interpreting or disclosing HIV test results
- Assistance with HIV testing protocols
- State HIV Testing Laws Compendium at: <http://www.nccc.ucsf.edu>

**HIV Warmline**  
(800) 933-3413

*Expert clinical consultation on HIV testing and treatment*

**Perinatal HIV Hotline**  
(888) 448-8765

*Advice on interpreting HIV test results and treating HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants*

**PEPIline**  
(888) 448-8765

*Around-the-clock advice on managing occupational exposures*

## Recommendations for HIV Testing in Health Care Settings

### Summary of Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing:

- All patients ages 13–64 should be routinely screened for HIV infection, after being notified the test will be performed, unless the patient declines.
- Patients likely to be at high-risk for HIV infection should be screened at least annually.
- Patients initiating treatment for TB or STDs should be routinely screened for HIV.
- HIV screening should be included as part of routine prenatal care for all pregnant women.
- Separate written consent for HIV testing should not be required.
- Prevention counseling should not be required with HIV diagnostic testing.



Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health-Care Settings - CDC *MMWR*, September 22, 2006

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm>

## California HIV/AIDS Testing and Reporting Requirements

### Consent for HIV Testing

California law on HIV testing in medical settings is now consistent with CDC recommendations.

- *Written consent for HIV testing by medical providers is no longer required in California.*
- Medical care providers, prior to ordering an HIV test for all patients, are required to:
  - inform patients that an HIV test will be performed
  - provide information about the test and HIV treatment options
  - *advise the patient of their right to decline the HIV test.*
- Pregnant women are no longer required to provide written consent or refusal of HIV testing.
- Medical care providers must document in the patient's medical file if an HIV test is declined ("Patient declines HIV test" is sufficient notation.)

### Reporting Requirements

California law now requires health care providers to report cases of HIV infection and AIDS by name.

- To report a case of HIV infection or AIDS: Complete CDPH Form 8641-A, *Adult HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report*, and submit it within 7 calendar days to your local health department HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program.
- HIV reporting information and the CDPH Form 8641-A are available on the State Office of AIDS web site at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/Default.aspx>

Write your local HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program staff contact name and phone number here:

# Emerging Best Practices for Routine HIV Testing in Health Care Settings

## Offering Routine HIV Tests

Offer HIV testing as a part of routine medical care.

- ☑ Provide patients with information on the importance of knowing HIV status.
- ☑ Adopt policy of offering HIV testing routinely to all patients with undocumented HIV status.
- ☑ Develop written HIV testing and referral policies, procedures and protocols.
- ☑ Ensure newly HIV-diagnosed patients are linked to clinical care, counseling, support, and prevention services.
- ☑ Persons at high risk for HIV infection should be advised to be retested periodically and should be offered prevention counseling.

### Offering Routine HIV Testing:

#### Script Requirements/Recommendations:

1. Inform patient that test is planned.
2. Provide information about test.
3. Inform patient about treatment options and need for more testing.
4. Advise patient of right to decline test.

#### SAMPLE SCRIPT LANGUAGE SUGGESTIONS:

- a. *"We perform routine screening for HIV on all patients and we'll be doing that as part of your visit today."*
- b. *"We do this because of our desire to help keep our patients healthy and because there are excellent treatment options available for HIV."*
- c. *"If your test is positive we will need to do more testing but you should know there are many effective treatments for HIV."*
- d. *"You can decline the test and it will not affect the care you receive today."*
- e. If using rapid test: *"It's a quick test and you will know the results before you leave today."*

## Delivering HIV Test Results

MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

### With NEGATIVE RAPID OR CONVENTIONAL TEST results:

- No further testing is necessary unless patient may have been exposed during the last 3 months ("window period.")
- If possible exposure during window period, patient should be re-tested in 3 months.
- Provide counseling on risk reduction and resources for patients concerned about risk.

### With PRELIMINARY POSITIVE RAPID TEST results:

- The patient most likely has HIV, but the test needs to be confirmed with a Western Blot or IFA.
- Provide counseling, with focus on HIV as a manageable disease, risk reduction, psychosocial issues, and partner notification/disclosure.

### With POSITIVE CONVENTIONAL TEST results:

- Clinician should provide positive HIV test results in person.
- Provide counseling, with focus on HIV as a manageable disease, risk reduction, psychosocial issues, and partner notification/disclosure.
- Initiate appropriate screening and treatment and/or referrals for care and other services.
- Report test result to local health department.

### With INDETERMINATE TEST result:

- Explain that results are unclear and the test needs to be repeated in a few weeks.
- Explore possibilities of exposure during window period.

HIV testing information sheets and additional resources for health care providers are available online from the State Office of AIDS web site at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OAHIVTestHCS.aspx>

## HIV/AIDS Information Resources for Patients

California HIV/AIDS Hotline:  
1-800-367-2437

AIDS InfoNet  
<http://www.aidsinfonet.org/>

The Body  
<http://www.thebody.com/index.html>

CDC National HIV & AIDS Hotline:  
English: 1-800-342-2437  
Spanish: 1-800-344-7432

AIDSinfo Treatment Information  
<http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/>

CDC HIV/AIDS Prevention Program  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/default.htm>

AIDS Education Global Information System  
<http://www.aegis.com/>

Project Inform  
<http://www.projectinform.org/>



Contact your local PAETC for HIV/AIDS training, education and information services for health care providers!

#### Northern California:

UC Davis - Sacramento AETC (916) 734-3365  
UCSF - San Francisco AETC (415) 206-8730  
East Bay AETC (510) 835-3700  
North Coast Area AETC (707) 527-6223  
San Joaquin Valley AETC (559) 446-2323  
San Jose AETC (408) 556-6605

#### Southern California:

Drew University AETC (323) 563-4972  
UCLA AETC (310) 794-8276  
USC AETC (626) 457-4227  
UC Irvine AETC (714) 456-5134  
UC San Diego AETC (619) 543-2415