



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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WASHINGTON

HEALTH ADVISORY November 1, 2010

TO: Physicians and other health care providers
FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer
DATE: November 1, 2010
RE: Sexually Transmitted Infection Update

Dear Provider,

This advisory contains the following:

1. Sexually Transmitted Infection / HIV Co-infection Update
2. HIV testing survey for providers

1. Sexually Transmitted Infection Update

Elevated rates of primary and secondary syphilis / HIV co-infection as well as HIV co-infection with other sexually transmitted infections have been reported in several counties within the Portland Metropolitan Area, including Clark County. Populations most likely to be co-infected with HIV / STI include men who have sex with men (MSM) diagnosed with primary or secondary syphilis or gonorrhea. Washington Department of Health reports that although MSM diagnosed with primary or secondary syphilis are likely to be tested for HIV, only approximately 10% of MSM diagnosed with gonorrhea receive an HIV test. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one quarter of those infected with HIV are unaware of it. Early diagnosis and treatment leads to better health outcomes for persons living with HIV and is a crucial element of efforts to prevent the spread of HIV.

2. HIV Testing Survey for Providers who Screen and Treat Patients for STIs

We are requesting physicians and other healthcare providers who screen and treat patients for sexually transmitted infections to take a few minutes to complete the survey that follows. Responses will help us understand the relationship of HIV screening to STI screening and treatment in Clark County, with the goal of developing ways for persons at highest risk for HIV infection to learn their status earlier in the disease process. Your participation now will form the basis for future discussions about how we can collaborate to reach this important goal.

Please use the following web link to fill out the survey online: <http://bit.ly/bJ8hnO>.

If there are multiple providers in your practice, please ask each of them to fill out the survey.

The survey will be open from November 1 to November 16, 2010. You will receive a reminder about the survey from us near the mid-point of the process, to ensure that we can hear from as many providers as possible.

If you prefer to fill out the survey manually, we have attached a copy and request that you fax your responses to (360) 759-6850 by November 16. If there are multiple providers in your practice, please make copies and ask each of them to fill out the survey.

The survey should take approximately 8 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for helping us obtain this important information. Your participation is voluntary and confidential. Survey results will be grouped, and personally identifiable information will not be reported. If you wish us to contact you later for follow up or clarification, you have the option of entering contact information after completing the survey. We will also be happy to send you a report of our findings.

If you have any questions about this survey please call Natasha Albury at: 360-397-8024 or email natasha.albury@clark.wa.gov.

This survey should be filled out by each health care provider who offers direct STD care and consultation to patients in your practice. When there is more than one applicable answer, please check all answers that match your experiences. Return by 11/16/2010.

Clinic /Hospital Name:

Are you a ...

M.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.O.	<input type="checkbox"/>
N.P.	<input type="checkbox"/>
P.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other _____

Specialty _____

Number of years in practice: 0-5 5-10 10-20 Over 20

1. Do you provide sexually transmitted disease (STD) exams?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. On average, how many STD exams do you provide per week? _____

3. Do you provide HIV tests?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How often do you test for HIV among patients who are tested for an STD?

Always	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequently (3/ 4 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometimes (1/ 2 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rarely (1/4 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. How often do patients who are seeking testing or treatment for an STD request an HIV test?

Always	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequently (3/4 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometimes (1/2 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rarely (1/4 times)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How often do you offer or recommend an HIV test when a patient either tests positive with an STD, or has obvious symptoms (i.e. genital warts) during a clinical exam?

- Always
- Frequently (3/4 times)
- Sometimes (1/2 times)
- Rarely (1/4 times)
- Never

7. Do you offer an HIV test to patients who have ...
(please check all answers which apply)

- Herpes
- Syphilis
- HPV
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Hepatitis
- Trich
- Other _____

8. When you are evaluating patients for STDs, to which specific groups do you tend to offer an HIV test? (please check all answers which apply)

- Everyone
- Young Adults (Ages 18-25)
- STD Positive
- Men who have sex with men
- Pregnant Women
- Other _____

9. Do patients in your care need to sign a separate consent form for HIV testing?

- Yes
- No

10. How important do you think it is to offer an HIV test to patients diagnosed with an STD?

- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important

11. Do you know about the following Centers for Disease Control recommendation?

“All patients seeking treatment for STDs, including all patients attending STD clinics, should be screened routinely for HIV during each visit for a new complaint, regardless of whether the patient is known or suspected to have specific behavior risks for HIV infection.”

- Yes
- No

b) If yes, where did you learn about this CDC recommendation?

12. Do you think this recommendation is useful for providers?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Please explain why _____

13. What difficulties have you or your clinic experienced with offering an HIV test to patients who have been diagnosed with an STD? (Check all that apply)

- Cost Time Limits Administrative Support
- Paperwork Personal Comfort Clinic Policies (please explain if checking this box)

Other _____

14. What conditions would make it easier to offer an HIV test to patients diagnosed with an STD? (Check all that apply)

- Insurance Coverage Provider Training Elimination of Paperwork
- Patients Requesting an HIV Test Change in Clinic Policies (please explain below)
- Reduced Social Stigma

Other _____

15. When you offer an HIV test to STD patients, why do you offer it?

(Optional) Contact Information: _____

Clark County Public Health greatly appreciates your time!

To learn more, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/hiv.htm>