

MD Checklist: Counseling Patients with Preliminary Positive HIV Test Results

Critical Actions:

- 1) Ohio Law states you must provide post-test counseling for those with an HIV positive test
- 2) Discussion content required by law is contained on pt. sheet "Preliminary Positive Patient Discharge Instructions," **ACTION:** *Print and give to patient*
- 3) Page EIP **(513) 230-0425** (*EIP can notify the patient of confirmed test results and coordinate with health dept*) Include: **name, date, MR#, Acct# and "preliminary positive"**
- 4) Be sensitive to HIPAA/privacy concerns while delivering and discussing the test results.

INITIAL DISCUSSION - Inform the patient: (if needed, page EIP counselor for assistance, **(513) 230-0425**)

- The HIV test was positive: Although result requires confirmation, extremely likely they are infected with HIV (and thus the need to counsel them as though they are positive)
- HIV is a disease that attacks the immune system
- HIV is treatable with the proper medical treatment and follow-up, but it is not curable
- The EIP program or other member of the ED staff will contact them with confirmed test results ASAP (about a week).

INITIAL REACTION & SUPPORT NEEDS (critical to securing follow-up and positive health outcomes)

- Address any emotional responses, example questions include:
 - *Do you have any questions at this point?*
 - *What are your plans for the rest of the day?*
 - *Who do you live with?*
 - *Who will you see after returning from the hospital today?*
 - *Who are you planning to tell?*
- Remind them:
 - They don't have to share their news with anyone right away
 - Support and follow-up is available through EIP and IDC

FOLLOW UP CARE -

- Tell patient to call **(513) 584-2999** to schedule an IDC Intake Appointment (they can always cancel if not needed)
- If the patient has questions or needs support between the current ED visit and the IDC intake, they can call the EIP Linkage Coordinator **(513) 558-8081**.

PROTECTING OTHERS

- Discuss transmission prevention (safer sex, avoid sharing needles, etc.)
- Let patient know about the felonious assault law, which says that when you are HIV positive, having sex with someone that does not know your status is a crime.
- Tell patient to expect to be contacted by Hamilton County Public Health Department who will *offer to* help them notify their partners of exposure without revealing the patient's identity