

ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE EFFORTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Updated: 09/10/2025

What Health Care Providers/Facilities Can Do to Prevent HIV, Hepatitis C, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Support Sexual Health

- **Offer and perform HIV testing** for every patient age 13 years and older to ensure every patient knows their status.
- **Expedition initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in people newly diagnosed with HIV** remains a high priority and can be accomplished with modest adjustments to the established protocol. Visit https://www.hivguidelines.org/antiretroviral-therapy/when-to-start-plus-rapid-start/#tab_4.
- **Offer and perform hepatitis C testing** for all persons who inject drugs and persons newly diagnosed with HIV. Injection drug use is the most common risk factor for hepatitis C transmission. People who inject drugs, even once in their lifetime, should be screened for hepatitis C. Annual hepatitis C screening is recommended for those with on-going risk, including injection drug use, Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) who are HIV-positive or are on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). A one-time offer of a hepatitis C screening test is recommended for all adults aged 18 years and older regardless of risk behaviors and for all persons under 18 with an identified risk (i.e., injection drug use). Provide or make a referral for treatment for persons diagnosed with hepatitis C. Hepatitis C can be cured.
- **Conduct a complete sexual health history, risk and drug use assessment** for every patient. Ask about specific behaviors that may increase one's risk of HIV, hepatitis C, or other Sexually Transmitted Infections, such as the number of sex partners, type of sex (i.e., vaginal, anal, oral), sex of sex partners, and drugs used and route of drug ingestion, to help guide laboratory testing. Visit <https://ncshguide.nationalcoalitionforsexualhealth.org/> or <https://www.hivguidelines.org/guideline/goals-framework/> for guidance and additional resources.
- **Screen** for HIV and/or Sexually Transmitted Infections:
 - ✓ Persons presenting with evidence of active injection drug or other drug use
 - ✓ Sexually active Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), at least annually; every 3 to 6 months if at increased risk
 - ✓ Sexually active persons regardless of HIV status, at least annually
 - ✓ All persons with newly diagnosed HIV
 - ✓ Persons previously and/or currently diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Infections
 - ✓ Persons presenting with signs and symptoms that might indicate the presence of an acute HIV infection and/or a Sexually Transmitted Infection
 - ✓ Sex or needle sharing partners of people with HIV/STIs
 - ✓ Pregnant people at their first prenatal visit and during the third trimester at delivery. For complete information on screening, diagnosing, and treating syphilis in pregnancy, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2021 Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/toc.htm>.
- **Test** at the anatomic site(s) of sexual exposure and offer three-site testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia.
- **Treat promptly or link patients immediately to care and treatment** to interrupt the spread of HIV, syphilis, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. Consider offering doxycycline as post exposure prophylaxis (DoxyPEP) to eligible persons. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/sti/prevention/doxy-pep.html>.
- **Refer** all patients diagnosed with hepatitis C for treatment, if hepatitis C treatment is not offered onsite.
- **Offer** Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).
- **Facilitate partner management** by offering and providing Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) as appropriate and encouraging your patients to refer their sex or needle sharing partners to medical care for testing, Sexually Transmitted Infection treatment, and HIV prophylaxis. Visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/ept/>.

- **Collaborate** with State and County public health personnel on partner notification efforts. Expect the Health Department to contact you and/or your patient for additional information.
- **Refer** consenting individuals living with HIV and people engaging in behaviors that put them at risk of acquiring HIV to community-based organizations (CBOs) for support services.
- **Register** the clinical services (e.g., HIV, hepatitis C, PrEP, PEP, Buprenorphine, STI services) provided at your facility/practice on the AIDS Institute Provider Directory at <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/Register/RegisterCreate>.
- **Update** the clinical services (e.g., HIV, hepatitis C, PrEP, PEP, Buprenorphine, STI services) provided at your facility/practice on the AIDS Institute Provider Directory at <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/Register/RegisterEditList>.
- **Report** newly diagnosed cases of HIV and/or AIDS using the Provider Portal on the New York State Department of Health Health Commerce System at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hcs/index.html> or the paper DOH-4189 Medical Provider HIV/AIDS and Partner/Contact Report Form (PRF). Completion of the PRF within 7 days of diagnosis is required by New York State Public Health Law.
- **Report** all suspected and confirmed Sexually Transmitted Infection diagnoses promptly to your local county health department. Information is available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-389.pdf> and http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/instructions/doh-389_instructions.pdf.
- **Ensure** your employees and colleagues have access to current information and tools to promote health equity. Please visit <https://www.hivtrainingny.org/Home/healthequity> and <https://www.cdc.gov/health-disparities-hiv-std-tb-hepatitis/index.html> for more information.
- **Sign up** for the AI Provider Directory: <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>.

What Community Based Organizations Can Do to Support Sexual Health, Drug User Health, and Prevent HIV, Hepatitis C and other Sexually Transmitted Infections

- **Assess risk:** conduct a comprehensive behavioral sexual risk assessment for program participants/clients. Ask about specific behaviors, such as the number of partners, type of sex (i.e., vaginal, anal, oral), sex of partners, drugs used, and route of drug ingestion to help guide lab testing.
- **Provide harm reduction services:** facilitate access to safer use supplies and essential support services for people who inject drugs. To become a registered Opioid Overdose Program or to facilitate access to and disposal of syringes please see https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/needles_syringes/index.htm. For more information, visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/oduh/>.
- **Provide easy access buprenorphine:** as part of comprehensive harm reduction services. Individuals with opioid use disorder should be offered access to buprenorphine in a non-punitive way via a variety of settings.
- **Implement targeted client recruitment:** prioritize agency services to identify individuals who do not access health care services or who may not otherwise have access to HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing in clinical settings. These persons may benefit most from HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing services in nonclinical settings.
- **Offer and perform hepatitis C testing** for all persons who inject drugs and persons newly diagnosed with HIV. Injection drug use (IDU) is the most common risk factor for hepatitis C transmission. People who inject drugs, even once in their lifetime, should be tested for hepatitis C. Provide referrals for hepatitis C treatment for persons diagnosed with hepatitis C.
- **Offer navigation services:** assist persons living with HIV, or persons placed at risk of acquiring HIV, to obtain timely, essential, and appropriate medical, prevention, and support services (including PrEP/PEP) to optimize health and prevent HIV/STI/hepatitis C transmission and acquisition.
- **Provide effective behavioral interventions:** implement prevention activities that are culturally relevant and have been shown to be successful by evaluation or research.
- **Engage in condom promotion, education, and distribution:** make condoms available at no cost and increase access to condoms in ways that reduce embarrassment or discomfort when

acknowledging sexual activity. Information about the New York State Condom Program is available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/condoms/nyscondom.htm>.

- **Work with existing coordinating and community planning bodies** such as New York State Ending the Epidemic regional steering committees, the New York State HIV Advisory Body, and NY Links to plan, promote and conduct community education events/activities, foster dialogue, and share resources.
- **Use technology and social media platforms** to promote partner services, increase general awareness, provide accurate and science-based education, and address misinformation. Social media efforts should be informed by contextual factors such as culture, language, health literacy levels, norms, stigma, discrimination, and health care disparities. A partner services public service announcement is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63hsXYucSrs>.
- **Collaborate** with public health stakeholders including county departments of health, regional partner services staff, other AIDS Institute funded providers, CBOs (including non-AIDS service organizations), medical providers, behavioral health providers, etc. to discuss the health advisory, communicate current services, and develop a local response plan and/or collaboration agreements (as needed) to best serve the needs of the priority populations.
- **Share** this information with the communities you serve through announcements, press releases, medical and community communications and digital and social media avenues.
- **Ensure** your employees and colleagues have access to current information and tools to promote health equity. Please visit <https://www.hivtrainingny.org/Home/healthequity> and <https://www.cdc.gov/health-disparities-hiv-std-tb-hepatitis/index.html> for more information.
- **Sign up** for the AI Provider Directory: <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>.

Additional Resources

- **Free and confidential HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing** is available at local health department sexual health clinics. <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>
- **Free and confidential hepatitis C testing** is available at locations across New York State. https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/providers/testing_locations.htm
- **HIV Testing Toolkit: Resources to Support Routine HIV Testing for Adults and Teens** http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/providers/testing/docs/testing_toolkit.pdf
- **HIV Self- Testing-** The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute offers free HIV self-testing kits to eligible individuals. To receive a free HIV self-test kit mailed directly to your home, visit <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6506712/HHTG-2021-Eligibility-Survey-Live>. Clients residing outside of New York City can text the word “Test” to 40457 to see if they are eligible to receive a free HIV Self-Test Kit.
- **New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute Provider Directory** <https://providerdirectory.aidsinstituteny.org/>
- **New York State Department of Health HIV/AIDS Hotline: 1-800-541-AIDS** <https://www.health.ny.gov/HIV>
- **Clinical Education Initiative Sexual Health Center of Excellence** Clinicians can call the Clinical Education Initiative (CEI Line) at 1-866-637-2342 to access expert medical consultation on diagnosis, treatment and management of HIV, hepatitis C, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and sexual and drug user health. Training calendar and archived webinar are available at <https://www.ceitraining.org/>.
- **New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute Clinical Guidelines for HIV/Hepatitis C/PrEP/PEP** <https://www.hivguidelines.org>
- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Non-Occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)** <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/index.htm>
- **Consumer Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Hotline – 844-PEP4NOW (844-737-4699) Available 24/7**
- **HIV Clinician Reporting and New York State Department of Health Partner Services** https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/providers/regulations/partner_services/

- **Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology** at 518-474-4284 or bhae@health.ny.gov for information and assistance with HIV reporting.
- **Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology** at 518-474-3598 or stdc@health.ny.gov for information and assistance with STI reporting.
- **Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology** at hepatabc@health.ny.gov for information and assistance with Hepatitis reporting.
- **Partner Services Public Service Announcement for Providers** Educate yourself and your team on the services offered by partner services and how partner services can extend the continuum of care to your patients, their partners, and others who may have been exposed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cumGb4ASugk>
- **New York State Department of Health Partner Services**
<https://www.health.ny.gov/partnerservices>
- **Hepatitis C Educational Materials**
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/educational_materials.htm