Michigan Department of Community Health
MDCH
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director

Systematizing Perinatal HIV Testing

KEY MESSAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to MCL 333.5133, all patients must be provided with information sufficient to obtain informed consent for and to understand the meaning of results of an HIV test; however, risk assessment and risk reduction counseling (i.e., "prevention counseling") prior to HIV testing is *not* required. To assist birthing hospitals with simplifying the incorporation of routine perinatal HIV testing, the MDCH has outlined key message recommendations in compliance with state informed consent requirements. Using these brief key message recommendations, providers can offer women this vital screening and meet informed consent requirements in a minimal amount of time. Consent is required for HIV testing and may be incorporated into a general consent form for medical care. Medical providers must document consent, either by patient signed consent or medical record documentation of the patient's verbal consent. A sample form prepared by the MDCH that combines consent for HIV testing with consent for other diagnostic tests and medical services is available at michigan.gov/hivstd.

INFORMED CONSENT REQUIREMENT *Patients must be provided with*	**KEY MESSAGE RECOMMENDATION** *MDCH recommends*
1. An explanation of the test.	*"HIV testing is a part of routine prenatal care and is recommended for all pregnant women in the first and third trimesters of pregnancy. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. A woman with HIV can pass the virus to her baby during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding. Treatment is available to help mothers with HIV improve and maintain their health and reduce the chances of passing HIV to their babies."*
2. An explanation of the rights of the test subject.	*"You may opt-out of HIV testing. Your test results are confidential. Anonymous testing is also available."*
3. Designation of the person(s) to whom test results may be disclosed.	*"With your permission, your test results may be shared with other providers involved in your and your baby's healthcare. If you test positive, the public health department can assist you with confidential partner notification."*
4. The opportunity to ask questions.	*"Have you ever been tested for HIV before? Do you have any questions?"*

ADDITIONAL DETAILS. Additional details can be provided through written materials. The brochure *What You Need to Know About HIV Testing*, developed and distributed by the MDCH, can be used for this purpose and is available on the MDCH website (www.michigan.gov/hivstd) or by calling 517 241-5900.

DOCUMENTATION. For the most accurate documentation, include documentation of consent or declination in the mother's medical record, and place a copy of the original laboratory report in the mother's labor and delivery record as well as the infant's medical record.

QUESTIONS. Please call Leseliey Welch at 313.456.3185 or email welchl@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your assistance and support of this critical health initiative to routinize perinatal HIV screening in Michigan birthing hospitals, prevent mother to child transmission, and improve outcomes for all women living with HIV.