
Summary To advise that policy directive PD2006_035 HIV Antibody Testing by Laboratories in NSW has been rescinded.

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Distributed to Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Health Associations Unions, NSW Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Tertiary Education Institutes

Audience Sexual Health and HIV Services/Clinics; Emergency Departments; GPs

Secretary, NSW Health
NOTIFICATION OF OBSOLETE POLICY DIRECTIVE PD2006_035

PURPOSE
To advise that policy directive PD2006_035 HIV Antibody Testing by Laboratories in NSW has been rescinded.

KEY INFORMATION
Policy directive 2006_035 has been reviewed by the Centre for Population Health. This policy directive is no longer required.

Local Health Districts and Specialty Health Networks should update their policies and procedures on HIV testing consistent with the National policy. The National HIV Testing Policy can be accessed via the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine website http://www.ashm.org.au/.

NSW Health recommends

1. Testing of all people with risk factors for HIV to provide early access to treatment and prevent transmission to others
2. Offering testing to contacts at risk of HIV.

It is a key target of the NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015: A New Era that the average time between HIV infection and diagnosed will be reduced from 4.5 to 1.5 years by 2015. To achieve this it is important that all clinical service providers offer HIV testing to patients who:

- Report **unprotected sex or blood contact** with a partner **who has HIV** or may be at risk for HIV
- Are **men who have sex with men** – test **at least annually**. Men who have episodes of unprotected anal sex, more than 10 partners in the past six months, or participate in group sex or use recreational drugs during sex should be tested **more frequently** (3-6 monthly)
- Have a history of **injecting drug use** – test **at least annually**
- Report **multiple sex partners or recent partner change**
- Have engaged in risk behaviours in **high prevalence countries**
- Are from high prevalence countries or are sex partners of such people
- Are diagnosed with an **STI or hepatitis b or c**
- Are **pregnant** – **test at the first antenatal visit**
- Have **received a blood transfusion** or blood products before 1985 in Australia, or any time overseas
- Are **health care workers conducting exposure-prone procedures** – **test annually**
- Require **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV**
• Have a **clinical indication of HIV infection** such as an opportunistic infection, HIV-linked malignancy or symptoms and signs consistent with primary HIV infection e.g. mononucleosis-like syndrome.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.