testTEXAS
HIV Coalition

Dear Dr._____:

Because you are my primary healthcare physician, I know you are interested in the health and well being of your patients. As members of the Test Texas HIV Coalition, Dr. Nick Curry and I would like to share some information with you that could benefit your patients. We would also ask for a little bit of time from your busy schedule to answer a short survey.

The Test Texas HIV Coalition is a group of healthcare professionals dedicated to seeing opt-out HIV testing become a routine part of healthcare in Texas. As the Medical Officer for Infectious Diseases at Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. Curry is a strong and vocal advocate for routine HIV testing.

As you may know, disease surveillance data show that 1 in 3 Texans with HIV received a late diagnosis of their infection. Many Texans are infected for many years without the knowledge that triggers behavior change and without the opportunity to gain access to effective treatment. Late diagnosis has also been linked to premature death and higher treatment costs.

These are some of the reasons behind the CDC Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Healthcare Settings released in 2006. These recommendations call for HIV screening for patients' ages 13 to 64 in all healthcare settings.

The Test Texas HIV Coalition would like to know your opinions about routine HIV testing. Please go to the Test Texas HIV Coalition website http://testtexashiv.org/ to participate in a short survey to help the coalition plan for increasing the health of Texans and to find more information about routine opt-out HIV testing. Or if you like, you can complete the survey (attached) and return it via fax, e-mail or USPS to the Test Texas program lead, Mary McIntosh (contact and mailing information is on the survey).

I thank you again for helping me to live a healthy life.

_____

Your Patient_____

Nick Curry, MD

Nick Curry, MD, MPH, FACPM
Medical Officer
TB/HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis
Infectious Diseases Prevention
Texas Department of State Health Services

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1. Were you aware of the 2006 CDC Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Healthcare Settings?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Is opt-out HIV testing available for your patients as a routine part of their healthcare as recommended in the 2006 CDC Guidelines? In other words, is an HIV test presented (not offered) to the patient as a routine test everyone their age receives?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. If you answered Yes to Question 2, how many patients tested positive in the past year?

_____

4. If you answered Yes to Question 2, what testing technology do you use? (e.g. rapid test kit, conventional lab testing)

_____

5. If you answered No to Question 2, please tell us why it is not included. Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Cost – Too expensive, not covered by third party payors
- ☐ Time - It would take too long
- ☐ Staff reaction – HIV positive results would be too difficult to deal with
- ☐ Patient population – My patients are not at risk for HIV
- ☐ Patient response - It would be offensive to my patients
- ☐ Lack of care – Care is not available
- ☐ Other: _____

6. Please describe information you would find useful regarding:

Testing technologies _____

Reimbursement _____

How to implement routine HIV testing _____

How to train staff _____

Patient referral information and resources _____

Other _____

7. Would you be interested in learning more about routine opt-out HIV testing?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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8. If you answered Yes to Question 7, please provide your contact info.

Name _____

Company:_____

Address:_____

Address 2:_____

City/Town:_____State:_____

ZIP/Postal Code:_____Country:_____

Email Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Thank you for your time!

Please fax, e-mail or mail this completed survey to:

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