

A new tool for testing and medication adherence

It can be difficult to remember to test for HIV/STDs every few months, to take medications every day and to refill prescriptions every month. Internet Sexuality Information Services (ISIS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) have launched a new service that can help: Oregon Reminders.

There's a better way to
REMEMBER

www.OregonReminders.org
text "ORreminders" to 61827



By visiting www.OregonReminders.org, Oregonians can sign up to receive reminder

messages and health tips via text messages, emails or voice messages. Oregon Reminders is free and confidential. Users can select the frequency of their reminders and even have the option to write their own reminder messages. Additionally, the service offers an option to receive weekly health tips for people who are HIV negative or HIV positive.

Enrollment is easy. Providers are encouraged to visit the Oregon Reminders website and discuss the service with clients. Questions about the Oregon Reminders service may be directed to Dano Beck at daniel.w.beck@state.or.us.

Update on HIV test consent policy changes

Previously, Oregon statute required health care providers to conduct a special informed consent before voluntary HIV testing of patients.

Senate Bill 1507, passed in February 2012, removed this requirement and substituted a requirement that patients be notified that HIV testing is intended and given an opportunity to decline. This notification and opportunity to decline testing may be verbal or in writing and may be contained in a general medical consent.

To align Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) pertaining to HIV testing with the changes to statute resulting from Senate Bill 1507, OHA is proposing permanent changes to OAR Chapter 333, Division 012. The hearing to review these changes will occur 3–5 p.m. Jan. 16 in room 1B of the Portland State Office Building.

The proposed OAR revision will be posted on the OHA website. For updated information, please visit <http://1.usa.gov/SWT0QI>.

National HIV/AIDS Strategy benchmarks

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy calls for timely linkage to care for people newly diagnosed with HIV, and Oregon (93%) is exceeding the national goal (85%) for this aim. Learn more about Oregon's successes and challenges to meet the National HIV/AIDS Strategy objectives. Read our new fact sheet at <http://1.usa.gov/UjHmwq>.

Gonorrhea in Oregon

Did you know that gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men account for more than one-third of male gonorrhea cases reported in Oregon? Read OHA's new gonorrhea fact sheet. Visit the Oregon STD Statistics web page at <http://1.usa.gov/QYGHEY>.

Upcoming events

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Feb. 7

Learn more at www.blackaidsday.org.

National Condom Week

Feb. 14–21

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/NCW2012>.

Oregon HIV/STD Hotline funding update

With anticipated reductions in the state General Fund, it is likely that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will not renew the contract for the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline in March 2013. This article serves to bring transparency to the rationale that informed this anticipated decision and share information about similar resources available.

The Oregon HIV/STD Hotline is funded with state General Fund dollars. The OHA HIV Prevention Program's portion of these funds is used solely to support the following services: 1) The Oregon HIV/STD Hotline and 2) funding to local health departments and community-based organizations to support syringe services programs, HIV testing and linkage to care. With an expected reduction in this funding, OHA chose to prioritize the latter services over the hotline. When making difficult funding decisions, it is OHA's responsibility to consider which services are most cost-effective and essential to protecting public health.

Hotline usage data reported by Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) from Oct. 2011 through Sept. 2012 indicate that the hotline receives two to three calls or online chat requests from Oregonians each day. As most conversations are 5 to 10 minutes in length, hotline staff and volunteers usually spend less than 20

minutes per day providing direct service to Oregon residents. Less than one-third of callers receive a referral to HIV testing. While the hotline website receives many visitors, the OHA hotline contract funding focuses on staffing and direct service, which are far more costly than maintaining a website. With a \$75,000 contract, each call/chat costs OHA approximately \$100. This cost is unreasonably high compared to other services supported by OHA, such as HIV testing.

While the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline is a unique service, there are other hotlines available to provide information and referrals to clients. These hotlines include the National HIV/STD Hotline supported by CDC (1-800-232-4636), as well as 211 Info. Regardless of whether the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline closes, providers are encouraged to collaborate with these hotlines to ensure their users receive up-to-date referral information.

OHA maintains that the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline provides an important service and hopes the hotline will be able to continue with other funding sources. CAP does a fantastic job with fundraising and, historically, has had numerous funding sources for the hotline. OHA staff will continue to share potential funding opportunities from other agencies that may be able to support the hotline.

Program contacts

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