



Minding the Gap

Welcome to *Minding the Gap* Newsletter !!!

Greetings! We are excited to present the first issue of *Minding the Gap*. *Minding the Gap* is a quarterly newsletter about HIV, STD, TB and viral hepatitis for health and social service providers working in Oregon correctional facilities.

Why a newsletter?

Providing healthcare and counseling to incarcerated persons creates unique challenges and opportunities.

Volume.

The number of people moving through correctional facilities is significant and dynamic.

Disease rates.

Incarcerated individuals have higher rates of HIV, STDs, TB, viral hepatitis, and other health problems when compared to the general population. For example, rates of chronic viral hepatitis are 2-20 times greater in incarcerated populations

than the general public. Also, studies have shown a correlation between length of time incarcerated and positive tuberculin skin test result; indicating TB transmission can and does occur in correctional facilities.

Opportunities and challenges.

As many of you know, people entering jail or prison are often at their sickest.

By screening and treating as appropriate for these diseases, jails and prisons provide critically needed health care and stop further disease transmission in the community. Also, having the capacity to link people released from all correctional institutions to community-based services for follow-up care of these diseases is essential.

In many communities, there is a gap for health issues at re-entry. We hope *Minding the Gap* will provide useful infor-

mation for you and your patients.

In this newsletter, we will provide answers to frequently asked questions, information about prevention, screening and treatment, contact information for programs, and updates on education materials and training.

Breaking News!

On May 12th, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a national action plan to combat viral hepatitis. Information about the plan "*Combating the Silent Epidemic: US Department of Health and Human Services Action Plan for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis*" is available at the link below

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HHS-ActionPlan.htm>.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I refer someone who is HIV+ for care when they're released?

Great question! In Oregon people living with HIV/AIDS are eligible for support to ensure access to medical care, medications, and social services based upon their needs. These services are coordinated by case managers at county health departments or community based organizations across the state.

To obtain information

about HIV case management services, please visit the resource database at www.oregonaidshotline.com or call (800) 777-2437 .

An inmate tells me he had a positive TB skin test in the past. What should I do?

If there is no documentation do one of the following:

1. Call the TB program to see if a record is available for him/her.

OR

2. Offer a QuantiFERON TB blood test

OR

3. Give another TB skin test (do not do this if the inmate reports a past severe reaction).

Questions? Contact us!

HIV Prevention:

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HIV Care:

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TB: Heidi Behm

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Viral Hepatitis:

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Community Re-entry:

HIV Care and Supportive Services Available to People Living with HIV/AIDS

With planning and support, incarcerated people living with HIV/AIDS can successfully access community-based medical care and supportive services upon release. If a person in your care has HIV/AIDS, discloses that he or she has HIV/AIDS, or tests positive for HIV, you can refer them for HIV Case

Management services up to 180 days BEFORE his or her release date.

HIV case management services are available in every county of Oregon.

County specific case management services can be found by searching the resource database at the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline:

www.oregonaidshotline.com or call

(800) 777-2437.



Online Learning Opportunity for Viral Hepatitis

The National Training Center for Integrated Hepatitis **HIV/STD Prevention** Services at www.knowhepatitis.org

has a wealth of information and online webinars on a variety of topics such as: "Living Well with

Hepatitis C", "Viral Hepatitis and Persons Living with HIV", and "Recent Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hepatitis C for Frontline Workers."

