
Contact/Partner Investigation

HIV Regional Training

HIV STD Program Staff

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HST PROGRAM
Public Health Division

Objectives

- Record Search named partners with available and applicable tools
- Make contact with partner
- Refer Partner to testing services
- Document Partner Investigation Activities in ORPHEUS
- Legal Issues

Record Search Partners

- Record search partner in ORPHEUS, EPIC, Rain Tree, etc.
 - Confirm if partner is in the system
 - Previous HIV history?
 - STI history?
- Search medical records, if available
- Search County Corrections web page
- Search **Vinelink** online inmate data base
- Search accurint (Lexis-Nexis) through State DIS staff
- Search DMV records (DIS assistance available)
- Search Facebook (DIS assistance available)
- Other social media search (DIS assistance available depending on app)

Make Contact with Partner

- Phone call
- Text Message (DIS assistance available)
- Regular mail (i.e., snail mail)
- Social Media (e.g., Facebook message) (DIS assistance available)
- Field Visit (as able)
- Request Direct State DIS Assistance (see Program Element 10 for guidance)

Refer Client to Testing Services

- Refer to Local Health Department, if possible
 - Be able to ensure client comes in for counseling and testing
 - Be able to easily obtain results and complete partner investigation
 - If new positive, link client to HIV care
- Refer to private provider or facility
 - Identify where and when partner will be tested
 - Make contract with partner to ensure follow up (e.g., can I check in with you in a couple of days?)
 - Verify testing occurred and obtain results

Document Investigation in ORPHEUS

- Document in contact record, including investigative notes
- If contact is a new negative, document lab results and close with proper disposition
- If contact is a new positive, document lab results and close with proper disposition; create new case for client.
- If contact is a previous positive, disposition as previous positive (record search closure)
- If contact cannot be located, disposition as “H” – **unable to locate**
- If contact refuses exam, disposition as “6” – **declined**.

Legal Issues

- HIV is reportable
 - Some providers may be hesitant to report HIV infection
- HIPAA Exempt (Public Health Exception)
 - Follow up is important for case investigation
 - Important for contact follow-up
- Unaware Partners
 - Refer to **HIV investigative guidelines – section 6c.**
 - Consult with Health Officer if an unaware partner (e.g., spouse) is known and a notification without case's consent is being considered
 - Brainstorm with State DIS and/or other county staff

QUESTIONS???