

DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST (DIS)

QUICK FACTS FOR CLINICIANS



What Is a DIS?

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) are trained public health professionals who play a vital role in helping stop the spread of disease. Most DIS work at Oregon's local public health departments. These professionals come from diverse educational and professional backgrounds, bringing a wealth of knowledge and skills of STIs/HIV and other communicable diseases to the communities they serve.

These skills include:

- Identifying and locating those who have been exposed to STIs or HIV.
- Case investigation
- Sexual elicitation, history taking, and intake
- STI education and prevention
- Referral provision for testing, treatment, and other community services

What Does a DIS Do?



In Oregon, DIS serve a critical role in reporting and controlling the spread of STIs and HIV. Local public health departments are responsible for investigating STI and HIV cases, and work alongside clinicians to ensure accurate data collection.

DIS confidentially work with patients diagnosed with STIs/HIV and their sexual and/or needle-sharing partners. And provide Partner Services. Partner Services include locating patients, creating a plan of notifying partners of possible exposure, and providing testing, treatment, and counseling services to break the chain of infection and prevent re-infection. Patients can decide to notify their partners themselves with coaching provided by the DIS, or it can be done directly by the DIS or clinician.



The Clinician and DIS Relationship



DIS work in partnership with clinicians to ensure that patients and their partners have access to the CDC recommended treatment and education. DIS may also contact clinicians in the case that a patient does not receive the recommended treatment for a STI. DIS assist clinicians in locating patients who have been tested but did not return to get their results or treatment. In the case that a patient does return for results and treatment, clinicians should be aware of options to assist their patients with notifying their partners if they wish to do so on their own. Tell Your Partner is a confidential website in which patients can notify partners anonymously online (visit QR code below).

DIS rely on demographic and contact information gathered by clinicians to successfully reach out to patients. Taking a complete sexual history is essential in STI care and provides information integral to DIS work, so it's important that clinicians be familiar with how to take one. Please visit the QR code below for the CDC guide to taking sexual history.

Clinicians are often the first contact a patient may have when discussing STIs and HIV. This is the best avenue to prepare patients on what to expect if and when a DIS initiates contact. A positive working relationship and information sharing between the DIS and medical provider is vital for the DIS to successfully complete their investigation, provide needed referrals, and stop the chain of transmission.

Clinician Reporting Requirements



Oregon law requires clinicians to report all laboratory-confirmed and clinically suspected cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV.

Reports should be made to the patient's local public health department within one working day and should include patient's name, home address, phone number, date of birth, sex, diagnosis, and date of symptom onset.

Scan QR code below for Clinician Reporting Requirements



Scan QR Code Below for Morbidity Reporting Form



Scan QR code below for CDC Guide to Taking Sexual History



Scan QR code below for Tell Your Partner



Contact Your Local Public Health Authority