# PROMOTING ROUTINE HIV TESTING

## BEST PRACTICES FOR CONNECTICUT PROVIDERS



### UPDATE PATIENT NOTICES

Send letters to patients about the universal testing law, and your ongoing commitment to follow legislation, keeping patients and communities safe.

### ENHANCE PRE-VISIT RISK SCREENING

Include questions about sexual behavior on your patient screeners.
Make the questions specific (e.g., oral sex, anal sex, use of protection).

### PROVIDE INFORMATION IN WAITING AREAS

Display T.E.S.T. Connecticut posters.
Show T.E.S.T. Connecticut video PSAs in waiting areas and exam rooms.
Make T.E.S.T. Connecticut information materials available.

### IMPROVE PATIENT INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES AND NORMALIZE HIV TESTING

Train staff to use motivational interviewing techniques.
Train staff to use a status neutral approach to care.
Discuss other related concerns (STDs, Hepatitis, substance use, mental health).

### COMMUNICATE IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO PATIENTS WITH AN HIV DIAGNOSIS

Effective treatment options exist and can lead to viral suppression.
Specialty care providers will support treatment plans.
The Connecticut Drug Assistance Program helps increase access to medications.
Counseling and care coordination services are available in the community.
Positive test results will be shared with the CT DPH and an outreach worker will contact you.

# PROMOTING ROUTINE HIV TESTING (continued)

## COMMUNICATE PREVENTION MESSAGES TO PATIENTS WHO TEST NEGATIVE FOR HIV

Offer information about the use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).
Connect interested patients to PrEP Navigators located in the region.
Encourage patients to visit **www.endthesyndemicct.org** for more information.

## UPDATE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Set electronic medical records to pre-order labs for routine HIV testing.
Set auto-reminders for annual routine HIV testing.
Refresh information on your patient notices, pre-visit screeners, and consent to treat forms.
Train staff on billing codes for HIV-related services.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Monitor viral suppression rates of patients with HIV.
Use CT DPH Disease Intervention Specialists to engage HIV patients who are out of care.
Connect your staff with HIV prevention and care resources available in each region.
Learn how other providers and practices implement routine HIV testing.

> **"It has been shown that one of the most effective ways in accomplishing a screening procedure is when a clinical recommendation is presented to a patient by a trained health care worker."**
>
> **- Dr. Michael Virata, Yale New Haven Hospital**

