STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Dear Public Health Partner:

I am writing to enlist your help in achieving our goal of ending the HIV epidemic in the state of Connecticut. In 2019, the federal government launched the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Initiative which aims to end the epidemic in the United States by 2030. An important goal of EHE is the timely diagnosis of all people living with HIV as early as possible after infection. HIV testing is a critical first step to early diagnosis, linkage to care and rapid initiation of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Offering HIV testing to all patients as a part of routine medical care is essential to achieving this goal and physicians play a critical role in making HIV testing a standard of care.

To this end, in 2022, the Connecticut Legislature passed a law requiring that beginning in January 2023, physicians offer all patients aged 13 and older an HIV test at least once as a part of primary care. Beginning in January of 2024, the law extends to all patients aged 13 and older, in emergency room departments.

Important things for physicians to know about Connecticut's Routine HIV Testing Law:

- It aligns with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).
- It requires all physicians make the offer of an HIV Test at least once to all patients 13 and older during the provision of routine medical care, however patients may opt out of testing.
- It requires all emergency room physicians offer an HIV test to all patients unless experiencing a life-threatening emergency.

This letter is the first step in providing information on Routine HIV Testing and the critical role physicians play in diagnosing new HIV infections. Please share this information with your staff and others positioned to support its implementation into practice. A Provider Guide will be digitally disseminated this year to support these efforts. It will include information for physicians on providing HIV testing and linkages to prevention and care services, reporting cases, and billing for services as well as information to share with patients. For more information, contact the CT DPH HIV Prevention Program at (860) 509-7801 or visit https://positivepreventionct.org/test-ct/.

Sincerely,

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

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