



Date: August 18, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:25

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5: Sexually Transmitted Infections

Section 2: HIV/AIDS

Guidelines for Medical Health Officers: Approach to people living with HIV/AIDS who may pose a risk of harm to others

The following areas in the document were updated to improve clarity:

- Reorganized to highlight and emphasize key recommendations/steps
- Clarified 'target population' of guidelines, including
 - Clarification on the definition of clients who are 'unwilling and unable'
 - Indications for more intrusive interventions limited to circumstances of high risk of transmission (in alignment with BCCfE definition of "high risk" transmission scenarios)
- Additional details provided on conducting a global risk assessment of transmission risk
- Updated the risk assessment to reflect current understanding of HIV transmission risk in BC in the context of HIV PrEP and U=U (undetectable = untransmissible)
- Updated to reflect evolving legal landscape/practice relating to HIV criminalization in Canada
- Integrated the principles of Indigenous cultural safety and trauma-informed practice into the overall approach and specifically in the risk assessment and interventions steps
- Updated language throughout to gender-inclusive pronouns and person-first language

The updated guidelines were approved by CD Policy in May 2023.

Please remove entire section: dated June 2017
Please add new section: dated August 2023

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Wong, Chief Medical Officer, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-5615 / email: Jason.Wong@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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Chief Medical Officer & Deputy Provincial Health Officer
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pc:

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BC Ministry of Health,
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