



BC Centre for Disease Control

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

May 30, 2012

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

**Re: Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 – Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section II: HIV/AIDS

(1) Point of Care HIV Test Guidelines for Health Care Settings

The Point of Care HIV Test Guidelines for Health Care Settings have been changed substantially. Please disregard and discard all former copies. Minor changes made to this document do not affect client care or processes and a list of the major changes are included below.

- **Section I, 9.2: pg 8 and 9 “HIV Testing Settings”;** changes made to reflect regional priorities for POC HIV testing and how POC HIV testing is currently being implemented. The key message from the previous version of the guidelines (that POC testing is most indicated in settings where the anticipated benefits outweigh the potential harms, with consideration of resources required for implementation) has been preserved.
- **Section II, 2.3, 3.0, 3.1, 3.2: pg 12-15, “Procedure for Conducting the INSTI Test” and “Interpretation of HIV Point of Care Test Results”;** changes made to layout only and not content.

Administrative Circular 2012:11

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- **Section II, 4.1: pg 17, “Procedure for Follow-up Testing”**; changes made to reflect the process for sending a confirmatory HIV sample directly to BCCDC Provincial Laboratory.
- **Section II, 4.2: pg 18, “Ruling out Acute HIV Infection”**; information added to this section regarding detection of HIV antibodies using POC and standard testing.
- **Section III, 1.1, pg 19, “Reporting Concerns Regarding the Quality of POC HIV Tests”**; contact information changed to Dr. Sarah Fielden, Provincial POC HIV Testing Program Manager.
- **Section III, 2.2: pg 20, “Continuing Education and Ensuring Ongoing Competency for Testers”**; section expanded to include more information on competency and ongoing training.
- **Section III, 2.3: pg 21, “Proficiency Testing”**; section expanded to include high level information on proficiency testing for sites. Further information on proficiency testing to be provided to participating sites directly when this program is in place.
- **Section III, 3.0-3.5: pg 21-23, “Using Quality Control Samples”**; recommendations in this section have changed significantly and now describe the recommended decrease in frequency of quality control sample usage.
- **Section III, 6.2: pg 28, “Quality Control Materials and Other Supplies”**; section added to clarify that the Provincial POC HIV Testing program covers the cost of quality control samples and other related testing supplies.
- **Appendix II, pg 35- 42, “Roles and Responsibilities”**; section added to clarify the roles and responsibilities of testers, sites, health authorities, provincial program and manufacturer.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 – Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section II: HIV/AIDS:

Point of Care HIV Test Guidelines for Health Care Settings (May 2011)

Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 – Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section II: HIV/AIDS:

Point of Care HIV Test Guidelines for Health Care Settings (May 2012)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Fielden, Manager Provincial Point of Care HIV Testing Program, or Bobbi Brownrigg, Leader Public Health Initiatives and Innovation, at telephone (604) 707-5635/ (604)707-5620, fax (604) 707-5604 or by email sarah.fielden@bccdc.ca or bobbi.brownrigg@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gina Ogilvie,
Medical Director
Clinical Prevention Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: BC Ministry of Health:

Dr. Perry Kendall
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Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk
Medical Consultant
Non-Communicable Disease

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