

Evaluation of Patient and Provider Perspectives on Routine HIV Screening in Emergency Departments

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Project Description

Routine HIV screening in all health facilities has been recommended by the CDC as a critical strategy to reach undiagnosed HIV patients in order to facilitate linkage to care and enhance HIV prevention efforts. Offering HIV testing in hospital emergency departments is viewed as a particularly important mechanism to reach patients who may not have health insurance or access to regular medical care. To address this issue, the California State Office of AIDS will be launching a program to expand HIV screening in three San Francisco Bay Area hospital emergency departments including: Alameda County Medical Center-Highland Hospital, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and San Francisco General Hospital. This project will evaluate the implementation process of Routine Testing for HIV in each Emergency Department.

Significance

There is currently no consensus on how Routine Testing policies should be implemented in specific medical settings. Emergency Departments are often the main source of medical care for persons without medical insurance, who are disproportionately low-income members of ethnic minority groups where the HIV epidemic is spreading most quickly. Evaluating how each Emergency Department has implemented the program, assessing patients' experiences with HIV screening in the Emergency Department setting, and focusing on individuals' decisions to accept or decline testing, will help ensure that routine HIV screening is implemented in a way to maximize clinical and public health benefits.

Project Recruitment Dates: January – May 2009

Project End Date: June 2009