ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN OF HIV TESTING IN BC

PAN 2012 Fall Meeting
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Presentation objective

• Provide an overview of recent changes to HIV screening in BC
• Set the stage for informed discussions in PAN’s 2012 PHA Forum and ED Summit
POLICIES & GUIDELINES
3) To improve the effectiveness of HIV screening and early detection

- STOP HIV/AIDS will expand the availability of HIV testing by health care providers. This improved screening process will ensure timely diagnosis of new HIV cases and allow earlier engagement in treatment and support services. Testing for hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections will also be expanded.
Offer and recommend a routine HIV test to all adults who have not been tested in the past year, under the following conditions:

- Whenever any other bloodwork is ordered
- Whenever an STI test or diagnosis occurs (same for Hep C & TB)
- Whenever asked for an HIV test

* Patients with an identified risk may benefit from more frequent testing, e.g. every 3-6 months.
* Continue to routinely order HIV tests with prenatal bloodwork.
Pre & Post Test Guidelines

- Guidelines issued by the BCCDC (Sept 2011) outline best practice for health care providers
- Document reflects a number of recent shifts that have occurred in relation to HIV testing and the HIV pre- and post-test counselling guidelines
- Moving away from “pre/post test counselling” language towards “processes”
Point of Care Testing Guidelines

- Point of Care HIV Test Guidelines for Health Care Settings, BCCDC, May 2012
- Provides guidance regarding the implementation and use of POC testing in BC for health care settings, in order to maximize the quality of POC HIV testing both within each site implementing POC HIV testing and for the province overall.
- Outlines guidelines for programs or sites adopting POC HIV testing.
Bill C39: The Emergency Intervention Disclosure Act

- Passed in British Columbia in 2012, despite heavy criticism from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the HIV/AIDS community
- Allows police, paramedics and fire-fighters to apply for a court order to have someone force tested for infections, including HIV, if the worker has been exposed to that person’s bodily fluids in the course of his/her work
- PAN has asked the PHO to inform them if the legislation is used
TYPES OF HIV SCREENING AVAILABLE
Types of screening currently available

1. **Antibody (standard):** detects antibodies 3-4 weeks after infection, one week for results

2. **Antigen-antibody ("4th generation test"):** antigen component detects p24 protein, detectable after approximately 17 days, one week for results.

3. **“Early” (NAAT/RNA):** detects virus 10-12 days after infection, one week for results

4. **Rapid (Point of Care):** detects antibodies 3-4 weeks after infection, rapid result
PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
Expanded screening in STOP Pilot Regions

- PoC testing provided through primary outreach services at single occupancy hotels and shelters in DTES and through PEERS
- HIV screening expanded for gay men & MSM
- Increased screening through the Vancouver Native Health Society youth clinic, InSite, key primary care clinics, and mental health & addiction services
- Expansion of PoC testing in Prince George, including pilot at needle exchange
- Northern Health’s Screening and Testing group expanded to include corrections, public health, and primary care.
What’s your status?

HIV doesn’t care where you live.

HIV doesn’t discriminate. A new test makes it easy and accessible for everyone to know their status. So get tested, know your results in just 60 seconds and live a lifetime.

Treatments now keep people who are HIV positive alive for a lifetime and prevents the spread of new infections.

Go to whatyourstatus.ca or call toll free 1 855 900 TEST for more information and locations for testing in the DTES.
Chee Mamuk Next Steps Project

- Chee Mamuk Next Steps project, funded through STOP HIV/AIDS Initiative, with goal to increase HIV testing in BC’s North
- Mandate to provide culturally appropriate, community-based HIV/AIDS and STI education & training to Aboriginal communities
- Provided HIV education, training & support to 5 health care teams to develop and implement awareness & testing plans
Pooled NAAT Testing among Gay/MSM

• Available to male-identified individuals at 7 clinical sites in Vancouver and through STOP HIV/AIDS clinical outreach activities
• Part of the *Study of Acute HIV Infection in Gay Men*, a 5-year longitudinal cohort study that is piloting the use of pooled NAAT testing for enhanced diagnosis of acute infection among gay/MSM
• Looking at sustaining this form of testing at current sites and potential expansion into other jurisdictions
Point of Care Testing

- One PoC HIV test product licensed for use in Canadian health care settings
- In 2010, the Ministry of Health asked BCCDC to introduce a centralized, province-wide HIV PoC testing, distribution, and quality assurance program (funded through STOP HIV/AIDS)
- BCCDC supplies PoC HIV test kits to the regional health authorities and First Nations health agencies, to support HIV testing at designated PoC testing sites
- Guidelines issued May 2012
Point of Care HIV testing sites supported by BCCDC

The Provincial Point of Care (POC) HIV Testing Program provides a centralized testing, distribution and quality assurance program to a variety of community and health service delivery organizations across British Columbia. Each marker on the map represents a site where POC HIV testing is currently being offered.

There are 54 provincial POC sites

Last updated: August 23, 2012

Site type
- ● Regional Public Health - Community
- ○ Non-Regional Public Health - Community
- ■ PHSA Site
- ▲ First Nations
- ◆ Corrections

Value within each symbol represents the number of sites offering POC testing (if >1)

Health Authority
- ○ Interior
- ◆ Fraser
- ● Vancouver Coastal
- ♦ Vancouver Island
- ★ Northern
HIV Testing Initiative in Family Practice

- Partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health & UBC
- Provides learning activities and resources physicians to facilitate routine testing in their practice
- Created through Vancouver STOP pilot
Hospital Routine Testing Pilot

- Patients requiring blood work admitted to 4 Vancouver hospitals offered an HIV test.
- Pilot started late 2011 will end March 2013.
- Tests require consent of patients
- If successful, routine HIV testing may become part of hospital care.
ONLINE, SOCIAL MARKETING, & EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES
Online Testing Education Tools

- Health Initiative for Men (HiM) online risk calculator and e-notification tool to remind men to get their HIV tests.
Partner e-Notification

Two new initiatives offer electronic partner notification of HIV or other STIs:
• inSpot from the BCCDC, developed in San Francisco, lets people send e-cards to partners to tell them to get tested
• Website includes comprehensive list of STI and HIV testing locations in their area & info on STIs and treatment
• HiM offers e-notification through their “What’s Your Number” website & STI & HIV risk information
I got screwed while screwing, you might have too.

Get checked for Chlamydia if you haven't recently. www.inspot.org

I am sorry, I didn't know.
Social Marketing: VCH & Providence Health Care

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WWW.ITSDIFFERENTNOW.ORG

WE WANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES TO THE FULLEST. WE’RE GREEDY THAT WAY.
WWW.ITSDIFFERENTNOW.ORG

CHANGE THE COURSE OF HIVSTORY

IDN

Pacific AIDS Network
Social Marketing: Northern BC

- Released on September 27, 2012, by the BC Civil Liberties Association
- The handbook was designed for both patients and service providers
- It covers topics such as informed consent, “non-nominal” testing, safeguarding medical privacy, and information on the criminal law and non-disclosure of HIV status to sexual partners.
ON THE HORIZON
Online testing

- BCCDC working on GetCheckedBC a new service to give access to STI/HIV tests online – pilot at Vancouver STI clinics in 2013
The future?

- HIV tests provided by community health care workers?
- By peers?
- Anonymous Testing
- Impact on BC of over-the-counter HIV tests licenced for sale in USA, and accessible for Canadians
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Email: andrea@pacificaidsnetwork.org
Slides available online at: