

Peer Review Plan for draft “CDC’s Recommendations for HIV Screening the General Population in Clinical Setting”

Title: Draft CDC’s Recommendations for HIV Screening the General Population in Clinical Setting

Subject of Planned Report: These recommendations for HIV screening are intended for health-care providers in the public and private sectors, including those working in hospital emergency departments, urgent care clinics, inpatient services, public health clinics, community clinics, and primary care settings, and correctional health settings. The objectives of these recommendations are to increase HIV screening of patients in health-care settings; foster earlier detection of HIV infection; identify persons with unrecognized HIV infection and link them to clinical and prevention services; provide opportunities for relinkage to care for patients that have fallen out of care; and further reduce ongoing transmission of HIV in the United States.

This guideline focuses on updating and expanding the CDC 2006 “Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health-Care Settings,” for screening the general population for HIV in clinical settings.

These updated recommendations were derived using the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology which specifies the systematic review of scientific evidence and offers a transparent approach to grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. Recommendations are based on formal assessments of the quality of evidence using the formal rating process (i.e., certainty of evidence), which includes not only evidence that was reviewed by GRADE, but also other lines of evidence (surveillance data, program data, etc.).

Purpose of Planned Report: The purpose of updating these recommendations is to:

- Emphasize the importance of the broad range of effective interventions for HIV screening the general population and thereby prevent ongoing HIV transmission to others.
- Expand and update the 2006 recommendations on this topic with new supporting evidence and new interventions.
- Emphasize evidence-based practices; and provide guidance to clinicians in clinical settings. (Clinicians are defined broadly to include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, health educators).
- Support efforts to promote implementation of the Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Initiative (EHE), which is intended to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 90% by 2030. <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/key-strategies>

This comprehensive set of established and new recommendations for HIV prevention in the general population is intended to guide prevention activities at the individual and population levels, to provide a blueprint for synergistic collaboration among providers working in clinical settings, and to galvanize the resources and support needed to scale up and sustain this high-impact prevention strategy approach in the United States.

Type of Dissemination: Highly Influential Scientific Assessments (HISA)

Timing of Review (including deferrals): December 3, 2024-January 2, 2025

Type of Review (panel, individual or alternative procedure): Individual

Opportunities for the Public to Comment (how and when): CDC solicited input from the public individuals outside the agency to improve the transparency, rigor, and quality of the CDC guidelines and therefore organized public external engagement opportunities on several instances. Prior to starting the CDC's 2006 guideline update, a Federal Register notice was posted in September-October 2019 and reopened in May-June 2020 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019, 2020) to gather input on what should be addressed in the revision. Over 60 comments were received from various federal and non-federal organizations and individuals. Data was organized by recurring themes, analyzed by the Evidence Review team, and shared with the CDC leadership and workgroup. This informed the scope of this guideline update and included topics for future guidelines. Comments were analyzed and integrated as appropriate into the guideline.

Additional comments were provided in November 2024 by 9 subject matter experts in HIV medical care and HIV prevention practices who met with the CDC project leads during a 3 hour meeting.

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments before the Review: Comments from members of the public will be received in parallel with the OMB peer review and will be addressed and incorporated into the draft.

Anticipated Number of Reviewers: 3

Primary Disciplines or Expertise: [will be updated]

Reviewers Selected by (agency or designated outside organization): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Public Nominations Requested for Reviewers: No

Charge to Peer Reviewers: The document that you will review is a draft of the recommendations document entitled “Recommendations for HIV Screening in Clinical Settings.” The final recommendations will be posted on the website of the Division of HIV Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Guidelines and Recommendations | HIV Partners | CDC](#).

We request your expert opinion on several issues, in particular whether:

- The document clearly explains that the recommendations are based on various sources of evidence, including systematic reviews, surveillance and program data, expert opinion, that are described in the draft.
- Methods for developing the recommendations are appropriate for this set of topics.
- Recommendations are justified and appropriate.
- Descriptions of the benefits and limitations of the recommendations are appropriate and clear.
- The audience for each recommendation is clear and appropriate.

At a later time, CDC will publicly post any comments you make (without attribution) in response to your comments on this page (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/planning.html>).

Peer reviewers:

Additional elements to be added to the public posting as they become available:

- Peer Reviewers’ names, affiliation, and expertise
- Peer Reviewers’ Comments
- CDC’s Response to Reviewers’ Comments
- Final guidance document (a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment) - published on **TBD**