HIV Testing in the Emergency Department

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OBJECTIVES
Review the New York State plan to end the AIDS epidemic.

Provide an update regarding changes to HIV testing policies and processes in NYS.

Describe the HIV testing options available and when to use them.

Discuss how routine HIV testing can be made simpler and is an opportunity in the ED setting, drawing from the success of Albany Medical Center's Expanded HIV Testing Initiative.

DISCLOSURES
I have no financial conflicts

My salary is partially supported by the Expanded HIV Testing Initiative – which is a CDC funded, NYSDOH AIDS Institute administered, AMC awarded grant

Emergency Physician
Specialization in Preventive Medicine
HIV Prevention Researcher
New York State Expanded HIV Testing (EHT) Project
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Audience

Diversity
Work in the field of HIV/AIDS
Clinical experience
Administrative experience
New York State funded project
HIV treatment and prevention are linked

Newly acquired HIV infections

Knowledge of serostatus leads to change in risk behaviors

More transmission of HIV infection

Higher HIV prevalence in the community

Treatment of HIV leads decrease transmission

New York State’s plan to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic
"For decades, New York State was the epicenter of the HIV epidemic in the United States.

In the early 1990s, nearly 15,000 persons were diagnosed annually.

In 2013, there were approximately 3,300 newly-diagnosed HIV cases..."
Scale up HIV testing to identify those undiagnosed

Link and retain those diagnosed with HIV in care, to maximize viral suppression

(Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to at-risk populations – MSM, IDUs, partners of positives, etc.)
Many of the new HIV infections in the United States are spread by individuals who are unaware of their status.

Update on the HIV testing policy changes over the last decade
2006 CDC HIV Testing Recommendations

Routinize HIV testing
Non-targeted screening in clinical settings
No written consent
Opt-out testing
Optional prevention counseling

These are federal guidelines
Dear Colleague,

On July 30, 2010, Governor David A. Paterson signed into law significant changes in HIV testing in New York State and issued a law requiring testing at least once for all patients between the ages of 13 and 64 receiving hospital or primary care services, with limited exceptions noted in the law.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

- HIV testing must be offered to all patients receiving hospital or primary care services, with limited exceptions noted in the law.
- Tests must be offered at least once to all patients between the ages of 13 and 64.
- Patients must be informed of HIV testing at the time of consent for other health care services.
- Patients must be informed about the results of HIV testing.

Effective on September 1, 2010, standardized consent and notification forms developed by the Department of Health will be available for use in hospitals and health care facilities.

Who should be offered an HIV test?

Sincerely,

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

2010 NYS HIV testing law

HIV test must be offered at least once to all patients between the ages of 13 and 64 receiving hospital or primary care services, with limited exceptions noted in the law.
What proportion of ED patients should be offered a test? And, what are good acceptance rates?

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What compromises a good acceptance rate probably depends on (1) local prevalence and HIV testing stigma and (2) how often you offer the test

When was the last time that you have been tested for HIV?

How should the offer be made?
We emphasize that the offer for HIV testing is part of routine care for all patients.

AMC offers a test to all patients at each visit regardless of previous response or date of last test.

Reduces stigma to HIV and HIV testing.

Albany Medical Center workflow practice – offering the test

The offer is incorporated in the primary nurses assessment.

Automatically generated order.
Language of the Offer

“According to NYS law, AMC offers HIV testing as part of routine care to all patients (between the ages of 13 and 64). Would you like an HIV test today?”

“We encourage all patients receiving care in the ED to have an HIV test, can we add an HIV test as part of your care today?”

“Can we add on an HIV test to your routine blood work today?”

Evolution of HIV Testing in AMC’s Emergency Department