



Memorandum

To: Oregon Emergency Department and Urgent Care Providers

From: Tim W Menza, MD, PhD

Date: May 12, 2023

Subject: Clarification on opt-out HIV, STI, and Hepatitis Screening in emergency departments and urgent care clinics

Clarification of HAN on opt-out testing for HIV, STI, and hepatitis in emergency departments and urgent care clinics.

Importance of HIV, STI, Hepatitis Screening in Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Clinics

The current recommendations for opt-out HIV, STI and hepatitis testing featured prominently in a [prior HAN](#) due to the many missed opportunities for diagnosis of these diseases in people who only seek care through EDs and urgent care clinics, including several recent syphilitic stillbirths among pregnant people who made multiple visits to the emergency department.

“You Order the Test, and Public Health Will Do the Rest” Explained

1. **Test, Deliver Results, and Consider Empiric Treatment**
Please continue to communicate HIV, STI, and hepatitis laboratory results to patients seen in your facilities according to your institution’s guidelines and practices. In some settings with rapid lab turn-around time, results of some HIV, STI, and/or hepatitis tests may be available prior to patient discharge. Treat those with clinical syndromes consistent with STI without waiting for test results.
2. **Understand Local Public Health’s Role & How They Can Help**
Local public health may be able to assist in following up with patients about positive results. Not all STIs may be followed up in the same way and are based on public health priorities. If you have questions about public health follow-up of HIV, STI, and hepatitis tests, please contact your county’s [local public health authority](#).

3. Learn More About HIV, STI, and Hepatitis Opt-Out Testing

- a. If you or your institution would like to discuss how to integrate opt-out HIV, STI, and hepatitis testing into your practices, please contact your county's [Health Officer](#) and/or your county's [local public health authority](#).
- b. Other resources include an in-depth review of California emergency departments' experiences with opt-out [HIV testing](#) and recommendations for opt-out [HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis testing](#). The emergency department at the University Hospital Cleveland Medical Center [successfully implemented syphilis](#) testing as well.

Thank you for your partnership in addressing HIV, STI, and hepatitis in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Tim W Menza, MD, PhD

timothy.w.menza@oha.oregon.gov

On behalf of the OHA STD Program

Medical Director
HIV/STD/TB Section
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority

