Why Offer HIV Testing Routinely to All My Patients?

• More than 100,000 New Yorkers are living with HIV.
• As many as 1 in 4 do not know they are infected.
• Patients may not want to admit certain risk behaviors. Risk-based HIV testing misses many people who should be tested.

The literature says…

Risk-based targeting misses over 50% of prevalent cases of HIV.*

• Recent studies show that HIV testing is more likely to be accepted if health care providers recommend it as a part of routine medical care.

Here is some proposed language…

“I offer free HIV testing to all my patients, and it’s a good idea to be tested regularly. Would you like an HIV test today?”

Risk-based targeting and HIV stigma…

Offering HIV testing based solely on risk stigmatizes the person, the risk behavior, and HIV itself.

• In New York City, where rates of HIV are greater than 1%, it is cost effective to routinely offer testing to all patients.

Financial Impact

When using conventional HIV Tests, New York State Medicaid providers can bill for a clinic visit and pre-test counseling on the same day.

*Klein D, Hurley LB, Merrill D, Quesenberry CP. Review of Medical Encounters in the 5 Years Before a Diagnosis of HIV-I Infection: Implications for Early Detection. JAIDS 2003;32:143-152.
Why Offer Rapid HIV Testing in My Practice?

• A new, rapid HIV test has become widely available.
• HIV status can now be determined in less than 30 minutes.
• Conventional HIV tests must be sent out to a laboratory, with a 3-10 day lag from test to result.
• Some patients who get conventional tests may not come back to receive their test results.

The literature says...
30% of patients tested by conventional means do not return to receive their test result.**

• More patients accept HIV testing if offered a rapid test.

It's easier than you think...
Offering rapid HIV point-of-care testing in your office is easier than you may think. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will help you get started. For help, contact your Health Department Representative.

Financial Impact
When using rapid HIV tests, New York State Medicaid providers can bill for a clinic visit and HIV pre-test and/or post-test counseling (at a generous reimbursement rate) on the same day.