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Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
Atlanta GA 30333

March 8, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

CDC is in the final stage of developing the "Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health Care Settings." This process began with an affinity session at the 2005 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit, followed by a community forum in September 2005 to gather input from representatives of community-based organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS, health departments, and academia. In November 2005 we shared the first draft of the revised recommendations during a consultation with representatives from professional organizations, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders. This current revision is based on the valuable feedback received during this process. Before the final recommendations are published in the MMWR, we would like to request your comments.

The proposed revisions were developed from an evidence-based review of the literature and data from recent demonstration projects. These studies document that, with current HIV testing practices, many persons with unsuspected HIV infection currently access health care services, but because they are not tested, their infection goes undiagnosed. The recommendations further expand on the successful prototype of widespread, timely antenatal screening that has led to the substantial reductions in neonatal HIV infection.

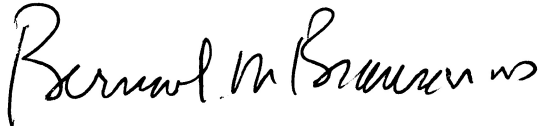
The final draft of the revised recommendations is attached. We ask that you review them and provide substantive comments to us via email at [hivscreening@cdc.gov](mailto:hivscreening@cdc.gov) as soon as possible, and no later than March 29. We are also seeking suggestions for topics to include in a companion implementation guidance that will include topics such as examples of best practices, sample protocols, and more detailed discussion of related issues such as reimbursement and HIV testing technologies. In order to expedite the review and analysis of your comments, please use the attached template, which provides fields to solicit comments organized along the lines of the main categories represented in the recommendations:

1. Recommendations for Screening Adults and Adolescents
2. Recommendations for Re-screening of Adults and Adolescents
3. Recommendations for Diagnostic Testing
4. Recommendations for Screening Pregnant Women
5. Additional Considerations
6. Omissions that may Warrant Consideration
7. Items to be Included in the Implementation Guide

Your feedback will greatly assist CDC in crafting clear recommendations to support health care professionals as they carry out two of the key strategies outlined in CDC's 2003 *Advancing HIV Prevention* initiative: to make HIV testing a routine part of medical care, and to further decrease perinatal HIV transmission. CDC also anticipates that normalizing HIV screening in health care settings will help to eliminate the stigma associated with HIV testing. The overarching goal is to maximize the opportunities for those persons who are currently unaware of their HIV infection to learn their HIV status earlier, and derive optimal benefit from treatment, support and prevention services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [BBranson@cdc.gov](mailto:BBranson@cdc.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard M. Branson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Bernard M Branson, M.D.  
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National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention  
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