

Supporting Implementation of HIV Rapid Testing in Labor and Delivery

January 2009

Dear California Labor and Delivery Medical Care Providers:

We are pleased to provide you with this *Resources and Reference Manual* and some important information about **no-cost training and technical assistance available to you** and all health care, pharmacy and laboratory staff involved in the care of pregnant women, women in labor, and neonates at your facility.

HIV Rapid Testing in Labor and Delivery (RTLTD)

As part of ongoing HIV prevention efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has requested that the California Department of Public Health, State Office of AIDS (CDPH-OA) offer assistance to hospitals with implementation of HIV rapid testing in California Labor and Delivery (L&D) facilities.

Since 1994, perinatal transmission of HIV has been greatly reduced among HIV-positive women through therapies given to birthing mothers before and during delivery, and to infants after birth. The U.S. Public Health Service, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all recommend HIV testing for pregnant women. Although great strides have been made in identifying and testing HIV-infected women, those who have not received prenatal care and were not offered HIV counseling and testing are one of the groups still at high risk for transmitting HIV to their infants. Women in California continue to present to L&D units with undocumented HIV status, putting the health of the laboring woman and her child at unnecessary risk.

Training and Technical Assistance for California Delivery Hospitals

CDPH-OA has contracted with the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to provide training and technical assistance to hospitals in support of the goal of implementing HIV rapid testing in L&D units (“RTLTD”). PAETC clinicians and program staff are available to help assess the ability, readiness, and/or current practice of conducting HIV rapid tests for laboring women who present to L&D with undocumented HIV status.

Who We Are

The PAETC is a network of clinicians and HIV program experts who provide clinical consultation, HIV education and clinical training, and capacity-building technical assistance to clinicians and institutions in their efforts to increase the quality of care provided to HIV-infected patients and families.

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What We Can Offer

Technical assistance support and training activities are custom-tailored to each site, and may include any of the following:

- **Sample policies, procedures, protocols, and forms** used for conducting rapid testing in labor and delivery.
- Information on **currently available rapid testing technologies** (i.e., cost, methods, sensitivity, etc.)
- Current **recommendations for use of antiretroviral drugs** in pregnant HIV-1-infected women.
- **Resources and background materials** that support the need for and efforts to identify HIV status in laboring women.
- **Technical advice** on applying to CDHS Lab Field Services for approval to offer HIV rapid testing.
- **Training and consultation for staff** on issues related to:
 - Implementation: e.g., initiating the HIV testing discussion with laboring women; gaining consent; laboratory procedures; how and when results are given; medication protocols for HIV medications to administer in L&D and postpartum.
 - Staff concerns related to systems changes, additional and new tasks, and identifying and working with HIV-infected women.
- Information on the **National Perinatal HIV Consultation and Referral Service** (Perinatal Hotline, offering 24-hour expert advice) and additional resources.

Your RTLD *Resources and Reference Manual* includes important background information, sample protocols, extensive provider and staff resources, and patient education materials on rapid HIV testing in Labor & Delivery. We hope you will find this information useful. The *Resources and References Manual* is available electronically on our online resource site:

<http://www.sfaetc.ucsf.edu/RTLD/RTLDManual/index.html>.

If you would like to request training and/or technical assistance support to begin or enhance HIV rapid testing efforts in L&D at your facility, please contact any PAETC RTLD Project Team member in your area as indicated on the following contact list.

Thank you for your assistance with this important HIV prevention effort!

Sincerely,

The Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center RTLD Project Team



California PAETC sites offer customized training and technical assistance to hospitals in support of the goal of implementing HIV rapid testing in California Labor and Delivery (L&D) facilities, and other HIV/AIDS topics.

For more information or to request training or technical assistance with implementing RTLD at your facility, please contact any Project Team Member in your area listed below:

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STATEWIDE PERINATAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

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