



MLS: Laboratory Update Proposed MDH Reporting Rule Change for HIV-Associated Laboratory Testing

February 15, 2011

Purpose of this Message:

This message is to update you about the proposed change to the current Communicable Disease Reporting Rules, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605, specifically affecting the reporting of laboratory test results to assist in the monitoring of HIV and AIDS.

BACKGROUND

As an update to the rule making process of which you have previously been made aware (MLS message sent January 4, 2010: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/mls/alerts.html#2010>), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is now proposing to amend one part of the Communicable Disease Reporting Rule, specifically Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.7030, related to reporting HIV/AIDS laboratory results.

MDH thoroughly revised the current reporting rules in 2005. Since then, testing technology for HIV/AIDS has evolved from using a screening test and confirming with Western Blot to rapid testing often without a confirmatory Western Blot. Rapid testing is now in almost universal use. This rulemaking process will update the communicable disease reporting rules to reflect current technology and practice, requiring all laboratories to report the results of all CD4+ lymphocyte counts and all HIV viral detection to MDH. Laboratory data are an essential component of HIV surveillance and these data can be used to identify HIV cases, classify stage of disease at diagnosis (HIV vs. AIDS), monitor disease progression, evaluate HIV testing and prevention efforts, determine entry into care and retention in care, measure community viral load suppression, and assess unmet healthcare needs.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROCESS

The Dual Notice: Notice of Intent to Adopt will be published in the February 14, 2011 State Register. Comments will be accepted until 4:30 P.M. on March 18, 2011. For more detailed information on the proposed changes, you can go the MDH website at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hiv/hivreportingrule.html>, or contact Allison LaPointe, Epidemiologist Supervisor, STD and HIV Section at 651-201-5414/1-877-201-5414 or via email at health.hivlabrule@state.mn.us.

Note: The website contains the proposed rule changes, the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR), and the Dual Notice, which contains administrative information about the rule making process, including who to contact and how to submit comments.

Thank you,

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For a printable PDF version of this message please go to:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/mls/alerts.html>

This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

****Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System****

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