



LICENSING ALERT 02-2023

This alert replaces Licensing Alert No. 1-97

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May 4, 2023

Effective Date: Immediately

Subject: Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Approved HIV/AIDS Curriculum Content

Purpose: To provide the updated content for in-house training to meet the HIV/AIDS training requirement in 28 Pa. Code §704.11(c).

Background: According 28 Pa. Code §704.11(c), Staffing for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities, "staff and volunteers shall receive a minimum of six hours of HIV/AIDS...training using a Department approved curriculum."

Discussion: DDAP has developed an online module that will satisfy the regulatory training requirement.

DDAP removed the in-person and virtual Basic HIV Training from the TMS catalog effective December 31, 2022, and this online module will be the only method available from DDAP to complete this training.

In addition to the online training, facilities may also develop in-house training to meet the regulatory requirement. DDAP will approve a training curriculum that includes all of the following content:

- I. The Epidemic
 - a. History of the disease
 - b. Epidemiology of HIV
 - i. Distribution of cases and trends by:
 1. Geographic location
 - a. Global
 - b. National
 - c. State
 2. Age, gender, and race/ethnicity
 3. Transmission behavior
 - c. National HIV/AIDS Strategy

II. The Virus

- a. HIV and the immune system
- b. HIV structure and life cycle
- c. HIV progression
 - i. Disease expressions/symptoms within each progression stage
 - 1. Acute
 - 2. Chronic (Asymptomatic/Clinical)
 - 3. AIDS
- d. Opportunistic infections
- e. Neurochemical impact of HIV
 - i. Crosses blood-brain barrier, can replicate in CNS
 - ii. Can lead to neurocognitive impairment
 - 1. HIV-associated dementia
 - 2. HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders
 - 3. Asymptomatic neurocognitive impairment
 - iii. Can lead to increased risk for depression

III. Transmission

- a. Primary modes
 - i. Unprotected sex
 - ii. Injection drug use
- b. Less common modes
 - i. Vertical (mother-to-child)
 - ii. Occupational exposure
- c. Comorbidities
 - i. Hepatitis
 - ii. STIs
 - iii. TB

IV. Testing

- a. Basic information
 - i. Why get tested?
 - ii. Who should get tested?
 - iii. What do the test results mean?
 - iv. Who will know the results?
 - 1. Anonymous vs confidential testing
 - v. Should the test results be shared with others?
- b. Types of HIV tests
 - i. Nucleic Acid Tests (NAT)
 - ii. Combination/Fourth-Generation Tests
 - iii. Antibody Tests
 - 1. Rapid tests
 - 2. Non-blood-based testing

3. Home testing kits
- c. Counseling and referral to treatment

V. Treatment

- a. HIV Care Continuum
- b. Linkage to care
- c. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
 - i. Approved antiretroviral drug classes
 - ii. ART and HIV life cycle
- d. Goals of treatment
 - i. Viral suppression (U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable))
 - ii. Restore/preserve immunologic function
 - iii. Reduce HIV-associated morbidity
 - iv. Prolong duration/quality of life
 - v. Prevent transmission
- e. Negative impacts to treatment
 - i. Adherence or treatment interruption
- f. Interventions to Promote Change
 - i. Evidence-based Interventions
 1. CDC Compendium
 - ii. Best Practices in integrated HIV/SUD care

VI. Prevention

- a. Risk assessment and health promotion/risk reduction counseling
 - i. [CDC HIV Risk Reduction Tool](#)
- b. Methods of HIV infection prevention
 - i. Biomedical
 1. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
 2. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
 3. Treatment as prevention (TasP)
 - ii. Structural
 1. Sex education
 2. Access to condoms
 3. Syringe exchange programs
 4. Health care availability
 5. Stable housing
 - iii. Sexual risk reduction practices
 1. Medications
 2. HIV and STI screening
 3. Barrier protection
 4. Non-exposure
 - iv. Drug-use risk reduction practices
 1. Never share drug works (needles, water, etc.)

2. Do not engage in sexual behaviors while using substances
3. Seek help to cease injection and other drug use
- v. Risk reduction practices for health care workers
- vi. Perinatal transmission risk reduction
 1. Medication

VII. Stigma

- a. What is stigma?
- b. Types of stigma
 - i. Enacted
 - ii. Anticipated
 - iii. Internalized
- c. Effects of Stigma

VIII. Confidentiality

- a. The Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act (Act 148)
- b. Consent to HIV-related test
- c. Certification of signification exposure & testing procedures
- d. Confidentiality of records
- e. Court-ordered testing and procedure

Facilities that develop their own in-house training do not need to send the curriculum to DDAP for prior approval. Instead, DDAP staff will review the curriculum during onsite inspections.

Facilities in need of assistance or resources with developing their own training can reach out to the DDAP Training Section at RA-DATRaining@pa.gov.

Please send all questions regarding this Licensing Alert to the Bureau of Program Licensure at RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.