

Vermont Guidelines for Universal HIV Counseling and Voluntary HIV Testing for Pregnant Women

Summary and Reference Table	
What is the Intent of These Recommendations?	Pages 1 - 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further decrease perinatal transmission of HIV • Reduce perinatal transmission rates to <2% with universal screening of pregnant women, prophylactic administration of antiretroviral drugs, cesarean delivery, and avoidance of breast feeding 	
Principles of Routine Screening	Pages 3 - 4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preconception HIV screening, Counseling and Care 2. Universal Opt-Out Screening 3. Addressing Reasons for Declining Testing 4. Timing of HIV Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to conception or as early in the pregnancy as possible • Retesting in the 3rd trimester for women at increased risk of contracting HIV 	
Recommendations for HIV Positive Women	Pages 5 - 7
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Principles of Counseling HIV Positive Women Who Are Pregnant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage testing of sexual partners and any children born after the woman became infected with HIV • The woman should be advised not to breastfeed 2. General Principles of Treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately initiate antiretroviral prophylaxis in response to a positive rapid HIV test while awaiting results of confirmatory testing to minimize risk of in-utero transmission.. • Determine the need for support services • Consultation with or referral to physician experienced in diagnosis and management of HIV infection is recommended. • Current treatment regimens are posted on the DHHS website and via the National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center's Perinatal Hotline at 1-888-448-8765 	
If a Woman's HIV Status is Unknown at the Time of Labor & Delivery	Pages 8 - 10
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Testing During Labor or Postpartum/Newborn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen with <u>rapid HIV test</u> if available and treat if positive while awaiting confirmatory test results • Screen with a <u>conventional HIV test</u> if rapid test is not possible; the test results should be expedited so they are available within 12 hours • Infants testing positive or reactive should receive antiretrovirals pending confirmation of the mother's HIV positive status <p>NOTE: A positive antibody test conducted with an infant up to 18 months of age does not confirm the presence of HIV infection in the infant because it may be due to transplacental passage of <i>maternal</i> HIV antibodies.</p>	
Resource List	Page 11
<p><i>The Vermont Department of Health recommends that 100% of pregnant women are screened for HIV prior to labor & delivery.</i></p>	

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