



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 2015

Dear Provider,

I am writing to inform you about changes to the State's HIV prevention programming that will likely impact you. New York State launched an Expanded Partner Services (ExPS) Pilot in September 2013 in four counties: Erie, Monroe, Westchester, and Onondaga. This pilot has since expanded into a statewide initiative as of January 2015. Background and additional details are provided below.

Approximately 3,300 New Yorkers were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2012, bringing the total number of individuals living with a diagnosed HIV infection to over 132,000 persons. HIV surveillance data suggest that many of these individuals are not accessing medical care or receiving the full benefits of treatment. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) estimates that just 65% (86,000) of the 132,000 received HIV care at some point within 2012, 56% (75,000) received continuous HIV care throughout the year, and 51% (68,000) were virally suppressed at their last test during the year. These statistics show that while New York has had success in the treatment of New Yorkers with HIV infection, more work is needed to improve linkage to care and retention in care.

To help address these statistics, HIV surveillance data are being used to expand the scope of HIV partner services beyond new HIV diagnoses. More specifically, ExPS is using HIV surveillance data to identify individuals diagnosed with HIV who may be out-of-care (e.g., have no recent VL or CD4 labs within New York's HIV Tracking System). These presumed out-of-care individuals are targeted for expanded partner services, with the specific objectives of re-engaging these individuals in medical care and notifying and testing/treating partners. ExPS activities are conducted by specially trained regionally based Partner Services/Disease Intervention Specialists working for the NYSDOH or for a county health department. Importantly, ExPS Advocates contact the last known medical provider as their initial step in their out-of-care investigations. This is done to verify out-of-care status, confirm identifying and demographic variables, alias names, locating information, treatment information, and to get a general representation of the patient.

We encourage your cooperation with ExPS efforts in your area. Should you have any questions regarding the ExPS Services or this correspondence, please contact Program Coordinator, Megan Johnson, at (518) 402-6811 or megan.johnson@health.ny.gov or myself at (518) 486-1324 or james.tesoriero@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

James M. Tesoriero, Ph.D
Director, Division of HIV/STD/HCV Prevention Services
NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute



Expanded Partner Services

New York State launched an Expanded Partner Services (ExPS) Pilot in September 2013 in four counties: Erie, Monroe, Westchester, and Onondaga. This pilot has since expanded into a statewide initiative as of January 2015. Background and additional details are provided below.

Although new HIV diagnoses declined 45% overall in NYS between 2002 and 2012, HIV continues to be transmitted across the state. In fact, 3,300 New Yorkers were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2012, bringing the total number of individuals living with a diagnosed HIV infection to over 132,000 persons. HIV surveillance data suggest that many of these individuals are not accessing medical care or receiving the full benefits of treatment. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) estimates that just 65% (86,000) of the 132,000 received HIV care at some point within 2012, 56% (75,000) received continuous HIV care throughout the year, and 51% (68,000) were virally suppressed at their last test during the year. These statistics show that while New York has had success in the treatment of New Yorkers with HIV infection, more work is needed to improve linkage to care and retention in care.

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As a HIV *medical provider*, what does this mean for me?

An Expanded Partner Services Advocate may contact you or your office to inquire about the status of a presumed out-of-care individual to confirm identifying and demographic information, alias names, locating information, etc. Expanded Partner Services Advocates are specially trained regionally based Partner Services/Disease Intervention Specialists working for the NYS Department of Health or for the county health department in your area of practice. This information will assist the Advocate in locating and providing services to the individual. The Advocate may also contact you or your office to link a previously known HIV positive individual and/or an identified partner(s) into medical care. The Advocate will then contact you or your office the date of or shortly after the patients scheduled medical appointment to confirm attendance.

As a *community based organization*, what does this mean to my agency?

An Expanded Partner Services Advocate may contact your agency on behalf of an HIV positive individual and/or his or her identified partner(s) in order to link him/her to the services that your agency provides.

For more information please contact:

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