

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CONSENT FOR HIV TESTING IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING

POLICY NO. 318

**PURPOSE:**

To define the institutional requirement for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

**DEFINITION:**

**HIV testing:** Refers to any clinical test, laboratory or otherwise, used to identify HIV, a component of HIV, or antibodies to HIV.

**POLICY:**

At Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, consent for HIV testing is covered by the general consent for medical care, and does not require specific mention in the general consent.

**PROCEDURE:**

When a healthcare provider orders any licensed test to detect HIV infection, the ordering provider will:

- 1) Inform the patient that an HIV test is planned;
- 2) Provide information about the HIV test;
- 3) Inform the patient that there are numerous treatment options available for a patient who tests positive for HIV and that a person who tests negative for HIV should continue to be routinely tested;
- 4) Advise the patient that s/he has the right to decline the HIV test; and
- 5) If the patient declines the HIV test, document that fact in the patient’s medical record.

This policy is for the health care setting. It does not apply to:

- Alternative site testing
- Testing of cadavers by the medical examiner
- The donation of organs
- Unlinked testing in a sanctioned research project.

It is expected that the provider ordering an HIV test will follow up on the results, which will be available in the

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/08**

**SUPERSEDES:**

**REVISED: 10/09, 8/14, 9/14, 4/15, 3/18**

**REVIEWED: 1/08, 10/09, 2/12, 8/14, 9/14, 4/15, 3/18**

**REVIEWED COMMITTEE: N/A**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Chief Executive Officer

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**Anish Mahajan, MD**  
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**Patricia Soltero Sanchez, RN, BSN, MAOM**  
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electronic health record within one hour for stat HIV tests. The HIV service should be notified by the ordering provider when an HIV test is positive, and can also provide assistance with disclosure. In addition, the HIV service follows up on positive HIV tests Monday through Friday, to ensure patients have been notified and given appropriate follow up.

**REFERENCES:**

**California Health and Safety Code,**

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/AB%20446%20All%20Facilities%20Ltr.pdf>;

<http://www.aidsinfonet.org>