

Policy Title:	HIV CONSENT		
Category:	2 - Patient Rights	Policy No.:	218
Originally Issued:	2/1/1996	Update (U)/Revised (R):	4/26/2017
Distribution:	Hospital-Wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not Hospital-Wide, Other:	

PURPOSE:

To assure that HIV testing meets various requirements, including:

1. To aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with HIV infection
2. To help patients understand the test results and to take appropriate action, if indicated.
3. To protect other individuals from infection with HIV, e.g., sexual partners, healthcare workers, newborns (from perinatal infection).
4. To assure compliance with relevant laws, regulations and policies.
5. To protect the confidentiality of HIV test results, except as provided for within the law.

DEFINITION(S):

HIV testing refers to any clinical test, laboratory or otherwise, used to diagnose HIV, a component of HIV, or antibodies to HIV.

POLICY:

A signed general consent for medical care must be present for HIV testing in the health care setting. A special HIV consent is not required.

PROCEDURE:

Consent for HIV testing is covered by the general consent for medical care, and does not require specific mention in the general consent. When any authorized test to diagnose HIV infection is ordered, the ordering health care provider is responsible for informing the patient of the intent to perform the test and that they have the right to refuse the test.

If the patient refuses HIV testing, this must be documented in the medical record.

The patient will also be informed that there are treatment options for HIV, and risk reduction strategies to prevent HIV transmission if the test is positive.

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

- Alternative site testing
- Testing of cadavers by the medical examiner
- Donation of organs

- Unlinked testing in a sanctioned research project.

ATTACHMENTS/FORMS:

None

REFERENCE(S)/AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Section 120990
AB 682 (Berg) HIV/AIDS Testing, 2007

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