

WEISMAN CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION HOSPITAL (WCRH)

INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL

SUBJECT: Consent and Counseling For HIV
Testing

No: EH114

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Page: 1 of 2

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PURPOSE:

To define the precaution/counseling and consent procedures for HIV testing.

POLICY:

It is the policy of Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital that the documented informed consent of the patient/employee is required before the performance of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) blood testing and that appropriate counseling is provided for HIV pre- and post-testing.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

The consent and counseling requirements apply to all inpatients and outpatients and employees treated at Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital.

PROCEDURE:

It is the responsibility of the physician or his/her designee to obtain informed consent from the patient/employee prior to the drawing of blood for HIV testing

- A. HIV testing will be part of routine admission testing for patients 15 years and older. Consent for HIV testing is part of consent for routine testing. Consent from employees will be obtained by Occupational Health.
- B. In the event that the physician feels that an HIV titer is needed from the patient and they are unable to consent to testing, the physician will obtain consent from the next of kin.
- C. If the next of kin is not available and a family search has been conducted, then the facility will pursue alternative measures to obtain consent.
- D. The physician is responsible for discussing the implications of the test and the test results with the patient/next of kin/or employee.
- E. The physician will provide the patient with informational material in regard to the facts one needs to know about HIV antibody titer and post-test information.
- F. HIV testing is arranged with the laboratory according to standard procedure, but a copy of the consent form must accompany the specimen
- G. The results of the HIV test will be placed on the patient's medical record.
- H. Every effort will be made to ensure the confidentiality of testing results.

- I. If a patient refuses testing, the patient will be counseled by the physician and the refusal should then be documented on the consent form in the medical record and the physician notes.