

Did you know VA leads the Nation in providing HIV/AIDS care?

- > The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest provider of care to those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. There are over 25,000 Veterans in VA care living with HIV/AIDS.
- > VA's high-quality care helps Veterans with HIV/AIDS live longer, healthier lives.
- > In 2012, more than 99 percent of HIV-positive Veterans enrolled in VA care were linked to an HIV/AIDS provider. Ninety-three percent received antiretroviral therapy and more than 97 percent were screened for hepatitis B and C co-infections.
- > VA is one of the lead Federal Government agencies implementing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to strengthen and coordinate a national response to the domestic HIV epidemic.

VA ensures that all Veterans diagnosed with HIV receive high-quality care.

Do your part. Offer the HIV test to every patient.

How does VA policy ensure Veterans get tested and receive HIV/AIDS care?

- > As of August 2009, VA no longer requires either written consent or scripted pre/post test counseling for HIV testing. Verbal consent is required and must be documented in a patient's electronic health record.
- > Prior to giving consent, Veterans must be provided with educational materials and given the opportunity to have any questions answered.

- > VA's HIV testing policy makes it easier to offer HIV testing. VA encourages all providers (especially those in primary care, mental health, and substance abuse clinics) to routinely offer HIV testing to all of their patients.

What else is VA doing to help make HIV testing a part of routine care?

- > VA has numerous tools and resources available to help promote routine HIV testing at your facility.
- > VA has developed a clinical reminder to prompt health care providers to offer HIV testing to Veterans who have not been tested in the past.
- > VA has also funded numerous pilot programs to improve HIV testing in VA facilities. VA is evaluating these programs and developing best practices for nationwide dissemination.

Where can I find more information?

- > www.hiv.va.gov (internet)
- > vawww.hiv.va.gov (intranet—for VA staff only)

