

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: March 16, 2026

Subject: Screening for HIV Infection

Summary: Information for Improving Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening Rates.

In 2023, Louisiana ranked fourth in the U.S for HIV diagnosis rates (13.7 new diagnosis per 100,000 people). 939 people were diagnosed with HIV and 308 people were diagnosed with AIDS in 2024.¹ Age is a risk factor, with 22% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2024 occurring among Louisianans aged 13-24 years.¹

Louisiana's 2024 HIV data highlights profound disparities, with 43% of the 939 new cases concentrated in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge metro areas. Black residents are also disproportionately affected, representing 64% of the diagnosis despite being 32% of the population.¹

What do you need to know?

Routine HIV Screening: The CDC recommends *everyone* between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine healthcare. Those with higher-risk factors, such as sharing needles, having multiple partners or recent sexually transmitted infections (STI), are recommended to get tested annually.²

- Offering opt-out testing to all patients helps to remove stigma around HIV screening, fosters earlier diagnosis and treatment, lowers risk of transmission and can be cost-effective.³

Pregnancy Screening: The USPSTF recommends universal HIV Screening for all pregnant persons- including those with unknown status upon arrival in labor. In addition, HIV screening should occur with each pregnancy.⁴

Goal of Screening: Early detection and access to care can improve the survival and quality of life of our members, as well as prevent further HIV transmission.

HIV Test Procedure Codes and Encounters for HIV Screening Diagnosis Codes:

- **HIV Test Procedure Code:** 86689 HTLV or HIV antibody, confirmatory test (e.g., Western Blot)
- **Antibody:**
 - 86701 HIV-1
 - 86702 HIV-2
 - 86703 HIV-1 and HIV-2, single result

- 87298-For HIV-1 antigen(s) with HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies, single result
- When HIV immunoassay testing is performed using a kit or transportable instrument that wholly or in part consists of a single use, disposable analytical chamber, the service may be identified by adding modifier 92 to the usual HIV testing code.
- **Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA):**
 - 87534 HIV-1, direct probe technique
 - 87535 HIV-1, amplified probe technique, includes reverse transcription when performed.
 - 87536 HIV-1, quantification, includes reverse transcription when performed.
 - 87357 HIV-2, direct probe technique
 - 87538 HIV-2, amplified probe technique, includes reverse transcription when performed.
 - 87539 HIV-2, quantification, includes reverse transcription when performed.
- **Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme- linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method:**
 - 87389 HIV-1 antigen(s), with HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies, single result
 - 87390 HIV-1
 - 87391 HIV-2
- **HIV Screening Encounter ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes:** Z11.4 Encounter for screening for human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]

How can you help improve HIV Screenings?

- Integrate routine HIV screening into standard preventive care for all eligible patients
- Normalize conversation about HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Together, we can strengthen early detection and support better long-term care for our members.

Questions:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our patients' care. If you have questions about this communication, please get in touch with AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's Provider Services department at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

References:

¹ Louisiana HIV, AIDS, Early Syphilis, & Congenital Syphilis Surveillance Quarterly Report. March 31, 2025.

https://ldh.la.gov/assets/HIV-STI/reports/First-Quarter-2025-HIV-and-Syphilis-Report_Updated923.pdf

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Getting Tested for HIV.

https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/hiv-testing/getting-tested.html [Accessed 11 February 2026].

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Clinical Testing Guidance for HIV.

https://www.cdc.gov/hivnexus/hcp/diagnosis-testing/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/clinicians/screening/how.html [accessed 11 February 2026]

⁴ US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for HIV infection. US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. JAMA. Published online June 11, 2019.

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