

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: April 30, 2024

Subject: Screening for HIV Infection

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

In 2020, Louisiana ranked fourth in the U.S. for HIV case rates (15.6 per 100,000 population)¹ and third highest in AIDS case rates (11.1 per 100,000).²

Age is a risk factor, with 25% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2021 occurring among Louisianans ages 13-24 years.²

Geographic and racial disparities have also been reported. Of 903 new HIV cases diagnosed in Louisiana in 2021, 27% occurred in New Orleans and 19% in Baton Rouge.² African Americans comprise 32% of the Louisiana state population, yet were disproportionately over-represented among those newly diagnosed with HIV, at 65% in 2021.²

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. People with risk factors, including injection drug use, contact with and suspected exposure to sexually transmitted infections, or high-risk sexual behavior, are recommended to get tested annually.⁴

- 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.⁵

Pregnancy Screening: The USPSTF recommends all pregnant persons should be screened for HIV during the pregnancy, including those who present in labor and have not previously had HIV testing during the current pregnancy. In addition, HIV screening should occur with each pregnancy.³

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, (e.g., 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]**

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

Missed an alert? You can find a complete list of provider alerts on our website's [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page.

Need to update your provider information? Send full details to network@amerihealthcaritasla.com.

References:

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Annual HIV Surveillance Report, Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, May 27, 2021; Vol 32.

² Louisiana Department of Health. Louisiana HIV, AIDS, and Early Syphilis Surveillance Quarterly Report. Office of Public Health. Third Quarter 2022, Vol. 20, No. 3. September 30,2022.

³ US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for HIV infection. US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. JAMA. Published online June 11, 2019.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Getting Tested. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/hiv-testing/getting-tested.html> [Accessed 26 October 2022].

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). How Do I Screen for HIV. [https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/clinicians/screening/how.html#:~:text=When%20an%20opt%2Dout%20approach,\(opt%2Dout%20screening\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/clinicians/screening/how.html#:~:text=When%20an%20opt%2Dout%20approach,(opt%2Dout%20screening)) [accessed 27 March 2024].