

HIV Screening in Pregnancy

Overview

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HIV Screening in Pregnancy

Introduction

Purpose

This policy is to ensure health professionals are aware of the process of routinely offering antenatal HIV screening in pregnancy within Auckland District Health Board (ADHB).

Background

The Government, through the National Screening Unit of the Ministry of Health, has introduced a national screening programme for HIV testing in pregnancy. This programme is the universal offer of HIV screening to all pregnant women. This initiative was implemented because the previous policy, offering screening only to women recognised to be at risk of HIV infection, was not entirely effective.

Although New Zealand has a low prevalence of HIV, the overall number of new cases is rising, including in women. This trend means that there are an increasing number of unborn babies at risk of acquiring HIV from mother to child transmission (MTCT).

The purpose of testing for HIV early in pregnancy is to reduce the risk of HIV transmission from an infected mother to her baby.

The use of recommended interventions is reported to reduce the risk of HIV transmission from 32% to less than 1%.

A pregnant woman who has an HIV infection diagnosed must be offered advice and treatment for her own condition, and treatment and care to prevent transmission to her baby.

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Associated Documents

Associated Documents

The table below indicates other documents associated with this policy.

Type	Document Title
ADHB Policies and Guidelines Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Management in Labour • HIV - Nursing Care of Babies – Newborn Services • Informed Consent
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Health & Disability Services Consumers Rights 2004 • New Zealand Public Health & Disability Act 2000. Section 88.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Screening Unit 2008: Guidelines for Maternity Providers offering antenatal HIV screening in New Zealand • National screening unit Programme Pack Universal offer Antenatal HIV screening programme
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index of related documents National screening Unit Feb 2008: Guidelines for Maternity Providers offering Antenatal Screening in New Zealand
Pamphlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National screening unit “HIV testing in pregnancy”

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Definitions

Definitions

The following terms are used within this policy.

Term	Definition
ACH	Auckland City Hospital
ASAP	As soon as possible
EIA	Enzyme immunoassay
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ID	Infectious Diseases
MFM	Maternal Fetal Medicine
NSU	National Screening Unit
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
VL	Viral load

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Antenatal HIV Screening Process

Overview

HIV testing requires the same informed consent principles as all other tests. All pregnant women are offered an HIV enzyme linked immuno-assay (EIA) screening test along with the other antenatal screening tests at booking visit.

Process

The table describes the stages in the antenatal HIV screening process.

Stage	Description
Inform	<p>The maternity provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a discussion with the woman which includes explaining the purpose of the test. Provide basic written information – Ministry of Health HIV testing in pregnancy leaflet Arranges interpreter services if required Answers any questions the woman may have about the test
Informed Consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks additional information or expertise if required in order to gain informed consent Verbal consent is required Written consent not required, however this discussion must be documented in the patients clinical record
Documentation	<p>Document on the booking sheet or in the clinical record that the woman has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Been offered the HIV test Accepted or declined the test
HIV Screening Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HIV test is offered as part of routine antenatal bloods, but women have the right to decline the test Follow the declined HIV test procedure
HIV Screening Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill out blood request form to order HIV test Tick HIV box in the antenatal section of the blood request form Send blood sample to any lab for HIV EIA test Ensure requestor name and contact phone number is clearly legible on lab form
Patient Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If EIA test is negative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report will say HIV antibody/antigen not detected OR HIV screen not detected The woman can be informed she is HIV negative at her next antenatal visit If the EIA test is reactive follow the EIA test reactive result process

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Declined HIV Test Procedure

Procedure

Follow the steps below to order antenatal bloods, **without** the HIV test.

Step	Action
1.	Order antenatal bloods, without the HIV test.
2.	Inform the woman that she can change her mind at any time and have a test. Evidence suggests that if administered later in pregnancy interventions will reduce perinatal transmission.
3.	Document in clinical record: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The test was offered• Basic information on HIV test was given• The test was declined

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EIA Test – Reactive Result Process

HIV Positive Process

The table below describes the stages to follow when the EIA test is reported by the lab as being reactive. All reactive EIA results require follow up. The majority of pregnant woman with a reactive result will **not** be infected with HIV.

Step	Action
1.	Reactive EIA result, additional testing required to exclude or confirm infection: The requestor will be contacted by a pathologist and asked to obtain a second sample in order to provide a confirmatory result.
2.	A pathologist will explain the significance of reactive result to the requestor.
3.	The women must be contacted and notified in person that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She requires further testing to exclude or confirm infection• A second sample is required from her for HIV viral load• Two purple top tubes (15mls) and one red top (5mls) need to be collected. Bloods must get to the lab within 4 hours of collection)
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The follow up HIV viral load testing is only done at LabPLUS laboratory, Auckland City Hospital• The viral load result is likely to take approximately a week to be performed
5.	If the HIV viral load result is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negative - the women must be informed that she does not have HIV infection• Positive - the women must be informed in person that she has HIV infection. It is recommended that the person who will be contacting the pregnant woman to arrange collection of the blood for follow up HIV viral load testing contacts the community HIV team before making contact with the affected woman. See contact details

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HIV Positive Woman Referral Process

Process

Follow the steps below to refer a pregnant woman with HIV infection.

Step	Action
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support for the woman and the requestor when giving positive results is through infectious diseases (ID) and the community HIV team at ACHThe community HIV team is very experienced in giving HIV positive results and may attend the appointment and support the women and staff member when giving a positive diagnosis
2.	A written referral must be faxed or posted to the community HIV team when referring pregnant women with HIV infection to them. See referral details.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On the referral form make sure the community HIV team has been informed that the women is aware of her diagnosis and that she has consented to the community team making contact with herThe newly diagnosed woman will be seen in MFM clinic within one week for pregnancy careThe woman will then remain under specialist tertiary care with the MFM team for the rest of her pregnancy.

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Community HIV Team

Contact Details

- Notify the community HIV team
 - Contact weekdays 9am – 5 pm
 - Direct dial 09 375 7077 **Or** 3074949 x 22977
- Leave a message, the phone is checked regularly

Or contact the ID physician

- Notify the ID specialist 24 hour service
 - Phone the operator on (09) 307 4949
 - Ask for the on call infectious diseases physician or specialist
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Referral

For confirmed positive HIV result a written referral is required to be:

- Faxed ASAP to ID – attention community HIV team
 - Fax the referral form to designated fax (09) 307 4940
 - Or post ASAP to:
Infectious Diseases Community HIV Team
Auckland City Hospital
Level 6, Support Building
Grafton Rd, Auckland
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