



ABCs of HIV Early Intervention Services

HIV Early Intervention Services

HIV Early Intervention Services (EIS) are provided by workers based in addiction treatment sites throughout the state of Georgia. HIV EIS workers are trained to conduct HIV pre-test counseling, HIV testing, and post-test counseling. Many also lead HIV/STD educational groups with consumers and train co-workers in universal precautions.

Imagine Hope, Inc. coordinates the HIV EIS program on behalf of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities/Division of Addictive Diseases and provides support to Georgia opioid treatment facilities that participate, including:

- OraSure oral HIV testing devices free of charge
- Orientation for HIV workers
- Training and annual workshops for HIV workers
- Technical assistance by phone and email
- A subscription to the newsletter *HIV Risk Reduction*
- A copy of the *Quarterly Report* on HIV EIS activities statewide

Before You Test

If you have not already done so, you must call your local and/or District Public Health Office and then go visit in person to introduce yourself. Below Judi Duffy of the Georgia's HIV Unit explains why:

No HIV EIS agency or site should begin HIV testing without *first* establishing a relationship with their local health department for the very important function of knowing where, how, and to whom they can refer HIV positive individuals for partner services, medical case management, social services, and legally required state infectious disease reporting.

How can this be done if the health department does not know about your agency and hasn't met or at least talked at length to you, the EIS worker?

I encourage all new HIV EIS staff to call the district HIV Coordinator and schedule a face to face meeting to discuss these issues and to establish a relationship not only with the district office, but with the actual individuals with whom they will be interacting.

Prior to conducting HIV counseling or testing, new counselors are required to attend a CDC-approved course on HIV prevention counseling and testing. Each year, Imagine Hope, Inc. provides one or more deliveries of this workshop specifically for HIV EIS counselors. To insure that you are notified as soon as these workshops are scheduled, please make sure we have your current email address.

Note: To protect their privacy, co-workers, friends, and family members who want to take an HIV test are encouraged to go to a testing site where they are not known.

EIS workers are not authorized to conduct HIV tests with co-workers, friends, or family members.

Orientation

Please call Winona Holloway at 404-923-8991 to schedule an orientation session by phone. **If your site has never done HIV testing, ask her to arrange for a site ID number to be assigned.** During orientation you can go online together and explore your website, www.hiveis.com.

Getting Testing Supplies

OraSure (results in 3 days) - - A limited number of OraSure test kits are available to qualified EIS workers at no charge. An OraSure Request form is available on the HIV EIS website, www.hiveis.com, in the FORMS section. The form is also available by email, winona@imaginehope.com.

If your site has done OraSure testing in the past, look to see if you have any OraSure test kits on hand. If you do, check the expiration date. If the kits are expired or about to expire, call Marie Sutton at (404) 874-4040 **immediately**. Although kits are provided at no charge to you, they are very costly. Marie may be able to identify another site that can use the kits before their expiration date. Expired kits will be used for training. OraSure training is available as part of the required HIV prevention counseling and testing course (see Before You Test above).

Rapid (results in 20 minutes) - - A limited number of Clearview Complete rapid HIV testing devices are available to qualified HIV EIS workers at no charge. Once a year, Imagine Hope, Inc. provides the required training. Please be sure we have your current email address so that we may notify you of such opportunities. To view a demonstration of Clearview Complete, visit our website, www.hiveis.com and go to the Rapid HIV Testing section.

Organizing Your Paperwork

All HIV tests are reported on a 2-part HIV Test Report form (aka bubble sheet). Speak with your District Public Health Office contact for a supply of Part 1, the portion used to report all tests and Part 2, which is used only in the event of a confirmed HIV-positive test.

If you have difficulty acquiring a supply bubble sheets, please contact Winona. For instructions on how to fill out the form, visit the FORMS section of our website, www.hiveis.com and print the Tip Sheet by Judi Duffy. A Manual with detailed instructions is also available online along with a sample to use with the manual. Both may be printed from the website.

For every HIV test that you conduct, a bubble sheet must be submitted within 30 days after you receive the lab results. Note: we recommend that you keep your copy of all HIV test report forms for 18 months before shredding. Most counselors keep copies of bubble sheets on positive tests indefinitely. All HIV test report forms are mailed to Judi Duffy, who collects HIV testing data for the state:

Christie Pace, HIV Unit
2 Peachtree Street, 12th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Quarterly Field Report

Every site providing HIV EIS submits a report to Imagine Hope once a quarter. For a copy of the 2-page Field Report form, look in the FORMS section of the HIV EIS website, www.hiveis.com, or email winona@imaginehope.com. A quick review of the form will help you identify what information to collect so that when your first report is due, you will be ready.

We welcome you and look forward to speaking with you soon!
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Yours truly,

Marie Sutton, President
Imagine Hope, Inc.
(404) 874-4040
marie@imaginehope.com

& Winona Holloway, VP - Communication
Imagine Hope, Inc.
(404) 923-8991
winona@imaginehope.com