

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Todd Korthuis, MD

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 1507A
Date: Feb 15, 2012

Summary of Barriers to Routine HIV Testing in Medical Settings

One of the most important barriers to performing routine HIV testing in healthcare settings is the requirement that providers obtain special written informed consent prior to HIV screening. In 2009, we surveyed general internists across the U.S. practicing in outpatient primary care settings, about HIV testing attitudes and behaviors.

- Though 88% of internists were aware of CDC recommendations for routine HIV testing, they had offered HIV testing to only 2% of their patients (range 0-67%) of their patients in the past month.
- Nearly half (49%) of internists reported state requirements to collect special written consent for HIV testing as one of the most important barriers to offering routine HIV screening to their patients.
- Internists practicing in states with consent statutes that were inconsistent with CDC screening guidelines were nearly 3 times more likely to identify HIV consent requirements as a barrier to adopting HIV screening, compared to internists practicing in states with HIV testing statutes consistent with CDC screening guidelines.
- Many internists were unaware of their state's HIV testing statutes and reported that receiving information about their state's HIV testing policies would facilitate routine testing.

Todd Korthuis, MD, MPH
Director of HIV Research Program
Oregon Health & Science University

Source:

Korthuis PT, Berkenblit GV, Sullivan LE, Cofrancesco J, Cook RL, Bass M, Bashook PG, Edison M, Asch SM, Sosman JM. General Internists' Beliefs, Behaviors, and Perceived Barriers to Routine HIV Screening in Primary Care. *AIDS Education and Prevention* 2011; 23(3) Suppl:53-66. PMC3196638