Physician Script on Routine HIV Screening

To assist obstetrician–gynecologists with new recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) on routine human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening as a routine part of gynecologic and obstetric care (1), ACOG offers a Patient Education Pamphlet entitled *HIV and Women*; however, this information alone may not meet informed consent requirements in your state. When notifying women about routine HIV testing in gynecologic care in states using opt-out screening, health care providers may find it helpful to preface the conversation with the following suggested script:

> "I test all my patients who are between 19 and 64 years old for HIV as a routine part of their care." [If appropriate add: "and also test younger patients who are having sex."] "More than one million people in the United States have HIV and about one fourth of these people don't know they have it. Because they don't know, they can't get medicine that may help them live longer. This brochure (*HIV and Women*) tells you about HIV and why you should be tested. When you have finished reading this information, I would be glad to answer any questions you have. You will be tested for HIV today unless you tell me not to."

If a patient declines HIV testing, it should be documented in the medical record and should not affect access to care. Obstetrician–gynecologists should be aware of and comply with legal requirements regarding HIV testing in their jurisdiction(s). Legal requirements for HIV testing may be verified by contacting local or state public health departments. The National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center at the University of California–San Francisco maintains an online compendium of state HIV testing laws that can be a useful resource (www.nccc.ucsf.edu).

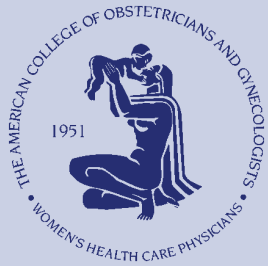
1. Routine human immunodeficiency virus screening. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 411. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2008;112:401–3.

(See reverse)

Resources

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
409 12th Street SW, PO Box 96920
Washington, DC 20090-6920
800-673-8444 or 202-638-5577
HIV page: www.acog.org/goto/HIV

National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center
UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine
at San Francisco General Hospital
1001 Potrero Ave., Bldg. 20, Ward 22
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-206-8700
Warmline (National HIV Telephone Consultation Service):
1-800-933-3413 (M–F, 8 AM–8 PM [EST])
www.nccc.ucsf.edu



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