

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Voluntary Testing for Infectious Disease **Effective Date:** 3/1/95

Initiated By: Cinde Stewart Freeman
QI Coordinator **Approved By:** William C. Anderson
Chief Medical Officer

Review Dates: 11/95, 12/06 JH, 04/09 NC,
1/10 NC, 02/11 NC, 04/12 NC, 03/13 NC, 2/14 NC
3/15 NC **Revision Dates:** 2/97 CSF, 6/99 CSF,
12/02 CSF, 7/05 JL, 11/08 NC

POLICY:

Cumberland Heights makes confidential infectious disease testing available through ancillary service provider agreement and anonymous testing available by referral to the Lentz Public Health Department. This service is available to patients on a voluntary basis. The difference between anonymous and confidential testing is explained to patients in order for them to make an informed decision about the testing.

PROCEDURE:

1. A patient desiring to be tested for an infectious disease makes this known to the counselor, nursing staff and/or physician.
2. The staff member explains the difference between anonymous and confidential testing as appropriate and consults with the patient about their wishes.
3. In detoxification and residential settings, a physician's order is written for on-site confidential testing. Testing is coordinated via nursing services.
4. Pre-and post-test counseling, as well as informed consent, for testing such as HIV testing is completed by the physician.
5. Nursing explains the procedure: a body fluid sample is taken and sent to the ancillary service biomedical laboratory for analysis. In the case of HIV testing, the specimen is sent under a numeric coded identification.
6. The results are reviewed with the patient by the nursing staff and/or physician. In the case of HIV testing, the results are sent directly from the lab to the physician. The physician discusses the test results with the patient. Test results are maintained in a separate file in Medical Records.
7. Follow-up for positive infectious disease findings is done by the Medical Director, either directly or via referral to community based services, including the Lentz Public Health Department.
8. Should anonymous testing be the desire of the patient, the patient is directed to the Lentz Public Health Department.
9. If an outpatient should need or desire testing for communicable disease, a referral is made to the patient's primary care physician or the appropriate area of the Lentz Public Health Department.