

**Health Plus Medical Management  
Communicable Disease  
Policy and Procedure**

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**I. Purpose**

To facilitate prevention of and provide appropriate plan oversight for the identification and treatment of those members with HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Disease, Tuberculosis or other communicable diseases.

**II. Procedure**

Health Plus follows all NYC Department of Health Guidelines for Reporting Communicable Disease. The following web site can be accessed to obtain these guidelines on mandatory reporting:

- ❖ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi21-4a.pdf>

(See *Quality Improvement Policy and Procedure – Oversight of Communicable Disease Reporting*)

All providers are expected to comply with the guidelines and regulations regarding Communicable Disease (See *Health Services; Identification and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, Identification and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Disease and Identification and Treatment of Tuberculosis*)

- Tuberculosis: Health Plus recommends that Primary Care Physicians provide counseling for TB patients and their families concerning household precautions. In addition, PCPs should follow protocols for referring patients to authorized DOT programs and following up with patients who miss visits. The following links to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) web site can be accessed to obtain information and guidelines to support these efforts:
  - ❖ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tb/tb3a.shtml> (Link to NYC DOHMH web page containing **TB Fact Sheet 3a: Evaluation and Follow-Up of Contacts of Persons with TB**)
  - ❖ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tb/tb2a.shtml> (Link to NYC DOHMH web page containing **TB Fact Sheet 2a: Directly Observed Therapy**)
  - ❖ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tb/tbsvc.shtml> (Link to NYC DOHMH web page containing list of **Tuberculosis Control Program Services**, including regional field offices)
  - ❖ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tb/tb5a.shtml> (Link to NYC DOHMH web page containing **Commissioner's Orders for Adherence to Anti-TB Treatment**)
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Plus recommends that PCPs adhere to recommendations of the 1996 US Preventive Services Taskforce concerning screening for STDs as well as updated information from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH).
  - ❖ Go to [http://www.healthplus-ny.org/prov\\_education.shtml](http://www.healthplus-ny.org/prov_education.shtml) to access the following documents in PDF format:
    - *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines (MMWR, Vol. 51; May 3, 2002)*
    - *Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) Health Care Guideline: Preventive Services for Adults* (see page 10, Algorithm #8)
    - *NYC DOHMH Health Alert: HIV-How To Prevent It*
  - [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/press\\_archive99/pr761008.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/press_archive99/pr761008.shtml) Link to NYC DOHMH web page regarding CDC National Syphilis Elimination Program

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Health Plus provides Case Management services to members with communicable diseases who would benefit from these services. The Health Services Case Manager coordinates services between the member, Primary Care Physician and the specialists (*See Health Services Policy:Case Management*)

Health Plus conducts regular education classes on HIV/AIDS and targeted at the entire membership with a goal of prevention of transmission and early identification and treatment of HIV. Member newsletters include materials encouraging HIV testing for all members, information on the relationship between STDs and HIV and harm reduction methods such as needle exchange programs. Education materials and handouts are tailored to the member's age, sex, language and culture, as well as the member's sexual status. In addition all new members receive the brochure "Protection = Prevention".

The Office of the Medical Director of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute posts HIV Clinical Guidelines, Best Practices, Quality of Care, and Clinical Education resources on their web site at [www.hivguidelines.org](http://www.hivguidelines.org). This information may also be accessed on the Health Plus web site [www.healthplus-ny.org](http://www.healthplus-ny.org) Providers are encouraged to access the websites to obtain more information on prevention and treatment issues that may be relevant to providing medical services to your patients who are at-risk for or living with HIV/AIDS.