



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

February 26, 1997

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COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Health Directors

FROM: Casey W. Riley, Director
Division of STD/AIDS

SUBJECT: STD/HIV Interview Time Periods

In May 1996, President Clinton signed Public Law 104-146, an amendment to the Ryan White CARE Act. The law includes a requirement that states take administrative or legislative action starting April 1, 1997, to ensure a good faith effort is made to notify a spouse of a known HIV-infected patient of potential exposure to HIV and to encourage such spouses to seek HIV testing.

HIV partner notification has been in place since the 1980s. While the new law requires additional notification for some individuals, it does not significantly increase workload on staff. *Starting April 1, 1997, the previous ten years of an HIV-infected patient's marital history should be reviewed and all spouses at risk for infection should be appropriately notified. Recommendations regarding the STD/HIV partner notification process can be found in the "STD Epidemiology" section of the STD Manual. There is no requirement to lengthen the interview time period to ten years for the spouses of those HIV-infected patients reported to VDH prior to April 1, 1997.*

Summary of Partner Notification Interview Procedures - Effective April 1, 1997

- Marital status should be obtained and documented on a field record for all HIV-infected patients.
- The interview period for HIV-infected patients, who are not separated or divorced and have never been separated or divorced, is one year from the date of the patient's positive HIV test. Spouses exposed to HIV are notified.

District Health Directors

February 26, 1997

Page 2

- The partner notification interview period for separated and divorced HIV-infected patients is extended to identify marriage partners in the past ten years.
- There is no need to go back ten years for HIV-infected separated or divorced patients with a known infectious period (known negative HIV test date). Spousal notification should encompass the six months prior to the negative test date.

If you have any questions, please call me at (804) 786-6267.

/pkt

c: Jeff Lake

Dr. Grayson Miller, Jr.