

LICENSING ALERT

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Minimum Content Requirements for Pennsylvania Department of Health Approved HIV/AIDS Curriculum

According to the Rules and Regulations, Title 28 - Health and Safety, Department of Health (28 PA. Code §704.11(c)) Staffing for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activities, "staff and volunteers shall receive a minimum of six hours of HIV/AIDS...training using a Department approved curriculum." The following outline and goals were approved by the Department's Bureau of HIV/AIDS and represent the minimum content requirements for Pennsylvania Department of Health approved HIV/AIDS curriculum.

Minimum Content Requirements for Pennsylvania Department of Health Approved HIV/AIDS Curriculum

The six hours of HIV/AIDS training shall include at a minimum, an overview of:

- **The Epidemic**

- history of the disease

- epidemiology of AIDS

- distribution of AIDS cases and trends by geographic location

- distribution of AIDS cases by age, gender and race

- distribution of AIDS cases and trends by risk behavior

- **The Virus**

- impact on the immune system

- 3 modes of transmission

- blood injection, sexual practices without protection, pregnancy/birth

 - risk factors and relative level of risk

type of fluid, route of absorption, fluid dose, health status

- **The Disease**

- spectrum of HIV disease**

- acute infection/seroconversion, asymptomatic, symptomatic, AIDS**
 - common clinical symptoms of AIDS, and the diseases that cause them**
 - current treatments**

- **Prevention**

- behavior change theory**

- major modes of HIV infection prevention**

- sexual and drug-use risk reduction practices**
(barrier protection, virucides, nonexposure)

- risk reduction practices for health care workers**

- perinatal transmission risk reduction**

- **HIV antibody testing**

- basic information about HIV antibody testing**

- what the HIV antibody test is and is not**

- limitations of the HIV antibody test**

- confirmatory antibody testing**

- the meaning of test results**

- issues involved in HIV antibody testing**

- arguments for and against testing**

- anonymous versus confidential**

- implications of HIV antibody testing**

- helping with decision making**

- risk assessment and health promotion/risk reduction counseling**

- new HIV antibody testing technologies**

- non blood-based testing**

- home testing kits**

- **The Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act (Act 148)**

- **Resources**

- HIV education/information and prevention**

- HIV antibody testing sites**

- HIV case management**

- HIV care**

Goals For The HIV/AIDS Training

- 1. Increase an appreciation of the connection between substance abuse and HIV disease and of the characteristics of substance abusers that affect HIV disease prevention efforts;**
- 2. Learn fundamental principles to guide HIV disease prevention efforts with substance abusers in treatment, their sexual partners, and substance abusers in the community;**
- 3. Increase knowledge about HIV disease and its causal virus, transmission, disease progression and symptoms, and basic methods of transmission prevention;**
- 4. Identify strategies for HIV disease prevention education that is targeted to a specific audience;**
- 5. Learn how to assist clients in assessing and accepting their personal risk of infection;**
- 6. Learn how to assist clients in making the personal decision of whether to take the HIV antibody test;**
- 7. Learn the basics of concepts of risk reduction and health promotion;**
- 8. Gain insight into how to incorporate HIV disease prevention efforts into your ongoing work.**