Promoting the Recommended HIV Diagnostic Algorithm: Practical Information for Laboratories

An overview of a New York State project

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Overview

• Background
• Identifying need
• The project
• Collaborative partners
• Process
• Results and highlights from developed content
Background
Relationship between NYSDOH and HIV testing labs

Background

1 Bloodborne Viruses Laboratory
2 Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program
3 Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology
The 3-point plan to end the AIDS Epidemic in NYS:

1. Identifies persons with HIV.

2. Links and retains persons diagnosed with HIV in health care.

3. Facilitates access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
Updated CDC recommendations for HIV testing:

- More accurate laboratory diagnosis of acute and established HIV-1 infection.
- More accurate laboratory diagnosis of HIV-2 infection.
- Fewer indeterminate test results.
- Faster turnaround times for most test results.
Identifying need
Identifying a need

DOH-licensed laboratories providing HIV diagnostic testing

In 2014, Just 10.6% were using instrument-based 4th generation HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab combo immunoassay.
In addition…

Confusion among laboratories who said they had already implemented the updated algorithm:

- using rapid POC (not an acceptable Step 1 instrument)
- not following algorithm through to completion
The project
The project

Goal:
- Increase the number of laboratories following the updated algorithm with 4th generation assay

Objectives:
- Laboratory directors will have access to resources to navigate potential barriers to implementation
- Meet informational needs of laboratory directors

Deliverables:
- Web-based toolkit and corresponding webcast

Guiding Principle:
- The best people to help laboratory directors are other laboratory directors who have already been through it.
Collaborative partners
Collaborative partners

- Stony Brook University
- ECMC
- Westchester.gov.com
- New York State Department of Health
- Wadsworth Center
- University of Rochester
- Northwell Health
- Albany Medical Center
Project team content experts

6 Laboratory Directors
3 HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Experts
2 Adult Education Experts
1 Public Health Laboratory Chief
1 Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Expert
1 HIV Field Services Expert
The process
1) Define target audience
   - 3rd gen assay users

2) Survey target audience to identify barriers to 4th gen
   - “HIV testing volume is too low to upgrade equipment”
   - “Not confident in 2nd gen assay following a 4th gen assay”
   - “IT issues with interfacing with EMRs/LIMS”
   - “HIV assays are expensive compared to other assays”

3) Compile information to address barriers
   - Most meaningful coming from Laboratory Directors
   - Present in succinct, meaningful layout
Results
HIV Diagnostic Algorithm Laboratory Testing Toolkit

Highlights page emphasizes key points
Planning section
Guidelines
Recommendations
Regulations
Reimbursement
Implementing section
Public Health Reporting
Reporting to Providers
Reimbursement
Wadsworth Center
Other tests/devices
Webcast: “Recommended HIV Diagnostic Algorithm: Practical Information for Laboratories”

Rationale for new algorithm

Explanation of each step

Interview with Directors
Toolkit and Webcast available at:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids

and

www.nyhospitalstest4hiv.org/laboratory
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