



Division of Public Health Services

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Update to HIV Diagnostic Testing for Clinicians, Laboratorians and Epidemiologists

With the new U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Grade A recommendation for routine HIV screening, Arizonan clinicians across all specialties are ordering HIV diagnostic tests. The use of the 2012 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Association of Public Health Laboratories (CDC/APHL) diagnostic algorithm has been shown to increase acute HIV diagnoses, which is when viral load is the highest and the most HIV transmissions occur.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recommends that clinicians and laboratories employ the 2012 CDC/APHL algorithm as their primary, default HIV screen. Providers and labs are long-accustomed to the standard EIA/Western Blot combination, which is both time-intensive and laborious – and pales in comparison to the new algorithm’s sensitivity for acute cases, rapidity of results, and is equally powerful in detecting chronic HIV infections.

This HIV algorithm is the current screening recommendation nationwide, and the Arizona population would benefit from its rapid implementation. Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions or resource assistance (602-364-3628).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Villarroel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Villarroel, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director
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