



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

December 3, 2007

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Appropriate Use of Point of Care HIV testing in BC

Please find attached revised table of contents for Chapter V and new guidelines titled "Appropriate Use of Point of Care HIV testing in BC." This document summarizes the characteristics and impact of POC HIV tests compared to standard HIV testing, and describes clinical scenarios and voluntary HIV counselling and testing settings where POC HIV tests are most indicated.

These guidelines have been posted to the CD Control Manual, Chapter 5. The accompanying evidence paper has been posted to the BCCDC website under the Statistics and Reports section ("Impact and Use of Point of Care HIV Testing: A Public Health Evidence Paper").

This guideline is intended to complement existing guidelines for the use of POC HIV test kits and client counselling with POC HIV testing ("Guidelines for Use of the POC HIV test kit: Information for the Health Care Professional in BC"; "Client Counselling Guidelines for Use with Point of Care HIV Test Kits").

If you have any questions or concerns about this document, please contact Dr. Mark Gilbert at telephone (604) 660-6149, fax (604) 775-0808 or by email at mark.gilbert@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael L Rekart, Director
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BC Centre for Disease Control

Administrative Circular #2007: 18

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