



OTP TTA CENTER

Opioid Treatment Program
Training & Technical Assistance Center

Expanding Infectious Disease Testing in MA Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

November 19, 2024

Welcome & Agenda

- 1 Welcome & Introduction
 - 2 Session objectives
 - 3 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 8 requirements for infectious disease testing and linkage to care
 - 4 Infectious disease continuum of care and Massachusetts Department of Health (MA DPH) best practices
 - 5 Discussion
 - 6 Wrap up
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Today's Presenters

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Today we are joined by representatives from:

- MA DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)
- MA DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS)
- MassHealth

*IDTA@JSI = Infectious Disease Technical Assistance @ JSI



At the conclusion of this roundtable, participants will be able to...



Explain the importance of infectious disease testing and linkage to care in OTP settings.

Describe federal regulations and best practices related to expanding infectious disease testing and linkage to care in their OTP.

Prepare their programs to offer or expand infectious disease testing and linkage to care in their OTP.

In Massachusetts...

1 in 5

reported HIV infections between 2020-2022 had injection drug use as a contributing factor

95%

of individuals with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) with exposure mode documented, reported that they had ever injected drugs

90%

of individuals diagnosed with HIV who have a history of injection drug use also had an HCV co-infection

23%

of infectious syphilis cases interviewed reported substance use (excluding alcohol)

Poll Questions





42 CFR Part 8 Requirements



The final rule...

Expands the provision of ‘counseling services’ that are provided by OTPs to include ... harm reduction, **counseling and linkage to treatment for anyone with positive HIV, viral hepatitis, or other sexually transmitted infection (STI) test results.**



Harm reduction refers to...

Practical and legal evidence-based strategies, including

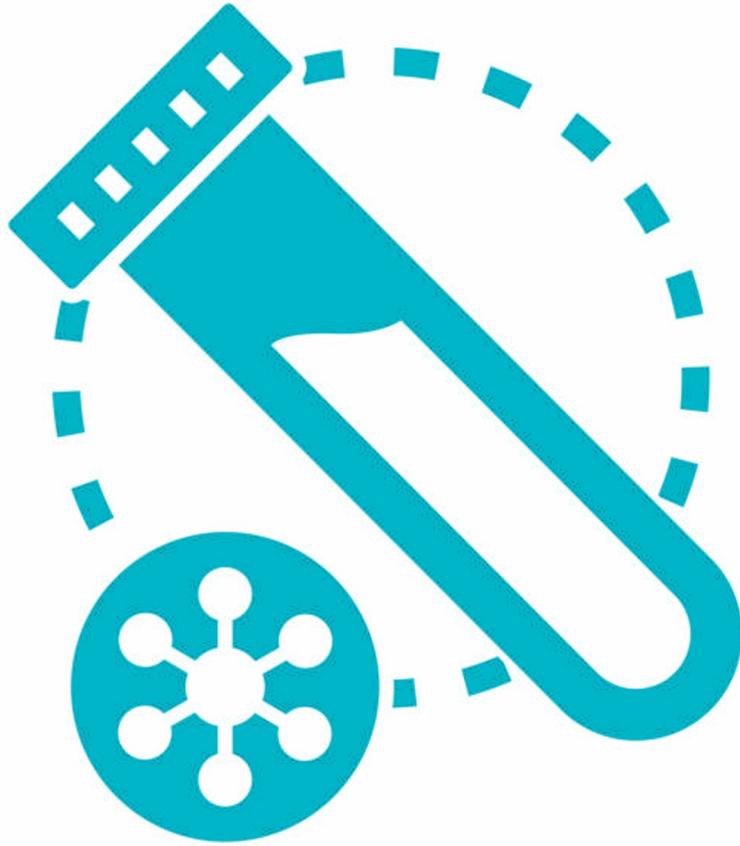
- Overdose education
- **Testing and intervention for infectious diseases**, including
 - counseling and risk mitigation activities forming part of a comprehensive, integrated approach to address human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, and bacterial and fungal infections





(ii) OTPs must **provide counseling** on preventing exposure to, and the transmission of, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and **either directly provide services** and treatments or **actively link to treatment** each patient admitted or readmitted to treatment who has received positive test results for these conditions from initial and/or periodic medical examinations.





Infectious Disease Continuum of Care & Best Practices



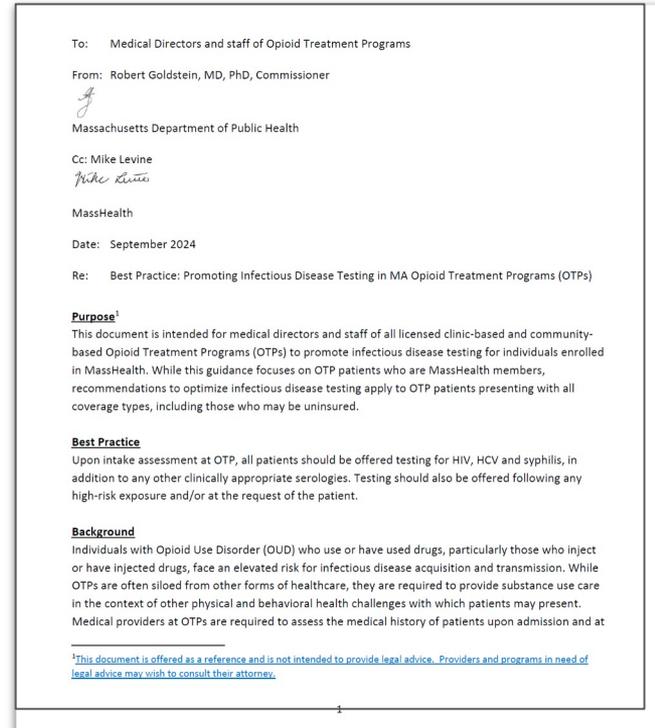
Massachusetts Regulations

- 42 CFR Part 8 and 105 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 164.000: *Licensure of substance use disorder treatment programs*
- Designate an HIV/AIDS coordinator
 - Applies to HIV and “any other relevant laboratory studies as clinically indicated”
- Testing for HCV, HIV and syphilis as clinically indicated is a billable service under MassHealth

105 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
105 CMR 164.000:	LICENSURE OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAMS
Section	
164.003:	Scope
164.005:	Definitions
PART ONE: LICENSING AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS	
164.006:	Part One Scope
164.007:	Application Requirements for Licensure or Approval
164.008:	Application Submission
164.009:	Evaluation of Application and Suitability of Applicant or Licensed or Approved Provider
164.010:	Inspections
164.011:	Issuance of Licenses and Approvals
164.012:	Posting of a License or Approval
164.013:	Transfer of Ownership
164.014:	Change of Location
164.015:	Change of Program Name
164.016:	Correction Orders
164.017:	Plan of Correction
164.018:	Administrative Penalties
164.019:	Grounds for Denial, Refusal to Renew, Restriction, Limitation, or Revocation of License or Approval
164.020:	Hearings
164.021:	Commissioner and Judicial Review
164.022:	Providing Information to the Department
164.023:	Waivers
164.030:	Governance
164.031:	Accreditation
164.032:	Finances
164.033:	Insurance
164.034:	Qualified Service Organization Agreements
164.035:	Required Notifications to the Department
164.036:	Marketing of Services
164.038:	Evaluation
164.039:	Nondiscrimination and Accommodation
164.040:	Written Policies
164.041:	Personnel

Massachusetts Best Practice

- At intake assessment, offer testing for HIV, HCV, and syphilis, in addition to any other clinically appropriate serologies
- Also offer testing:
 - Following high-risk exposure
 - At the request of the patient



Key Components

- **Establish and implement policies** for infectious disease testing, as a general standard of care
- **Follow all applicable state and federal regulations** related to infectious disease testing for individuals covered by MassHealth [130 CMR 450.00: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*]
- **Report positive cases** to DPH [105 CMR 300.00 *Reportable diseases, surveillance, and isolation and quarantine requirements*]
- If your OTP is also licensed as a clinical laboratory:
 - **Adhere to the regulations and standards** applicable to clinical lab operations for any infectious disease testing performed

Infectious Disease Continuum of Care



Consent for Testing

- All individuals offered testing have the option to accept or decline
 - Individuals should be informed of all tests that will be performed
 - Specific requirements for HIV testing:
 - **Verbal** informed consent required
 - **Written** informed consent required to inform a third party that an HIV test was performed and the result
 - Facilities may have their own policies regarding consent for HIV testing
- 

Ordering HIV, HCV, and Syphilis Tests

- Order a serum (blood) test
- Different labs have different protocols and guidance for how to submit specimens and request specific tests, for example:
 - HCV recommended testing is an antibody test followed by another test to detect an active infection (nucleic acid test)
 - This may require that you check two testing options on the submission form so that the lab runs both tests
- Find out what your lab requires!



Preparing to Deliver Test Results

Provide patients their results in the way they want to receive them - **ask their preference!**

Be aware of **privacy and confidentiality** laws. HIV status may have more heightened security measures than HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2.

Ensure **trauma-informed care** that understands the physical, social, and emotional impact of traumatic experiences on an individual.

Utilize **motivational interviewing** to ensure a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication.

Delivering Test Results

HIV

Negative Results:

Can be delivered via phone call

Positive Results:

Organizations may choose to deliver this result **in-person**

Let patients know that someone from the health department will contact them to offer a free, confidential, and voluntary service to help them get linked to care and inform their partners.

Syphilis

Negative & Positive Results:

Can be delivered via phone call

HCV

Negative & Positive Results:

Can be delivered via phone call

Let patients know HCV can be cured. Next steps for treatment will depend on your onsite or referral process.

Linkage to Treatment

HIV

- **Partner services program - free, voluntary, and confidential** program to help people diagnosed with HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs):
 - Get treated for their infection
 - Notify their partners that they might have been exposed to an STD
 - Help partners get testing and medical care
- MA DPH Field Epidemiologists will contact the patient directly and make their care appointment.

For more information go to mass.gov or call 617-983-6999.

Syphilis

HCV

- Primary care provider may be able to treat
- Develop referral relationships with local providers
- Provide resources about common misconceptions
 - Treatment is 8-12 weeks, over 90% successful, and has few side effects
 - No substance use abstinence requirement

Outposting Model

- Contract with an external agency to provide **testing and/or treatment staff** outposted to an OTP
- Can encompass **telehealth** using an external treatment provider
- 21 OTPs currently have **outposted testing staff** funded by BIDLS
 - No additional funding is available from BIDLS to support this



Q&A



Breakouts

1. To what extent do you and your staff understand HIV, HCV, syphilis and the infectious disease testing?
 2. How do you incorporate infectious disease testing into OTP assessment and treatment planning conversations?
 - a. If the OTP receives positive test results for a patient, what do you do?
 3. What process is in place for patients who come into the OTP and want to start treatment for an infectious disease diagnosis they have already received?
 4. What are your top two barriers in implementing infectious disease testing and linkage to care at the OTP?
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Resources

[Data Security and Confidentiality Guidelines for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Disease, and Tuberculosis Programs](#)

[A Guide to Support Individuals with HIV/Hepatitis C in Substance Use Service Settings](#)

[MA DPH BIDLS Hepatitis C \(HCV\) webpage](#)

[Massachusetts HIV-Specific Criminal Laws](#)

[Memo: MA DPH Best Practice: Promoting Infectious Disease Testing in MA Opioid Treatment Programs \(OTPs\)](#)

[SAMHSA Dear Colleague Syphilis Letter](#)

[Your Guide to Integrating Infectious Disease Testing and Treatment Services in Opioid Treatment Programs](#)



Upcoming events for OTPs!



Save the Date!

January 14, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Best Practices and Considerations for Telehealth
in OTP Settings

Share your thoughts

Your feedback on this session will help us improve our content based on your needs.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8078265/Expanding-Infectious-Disease-Testing-in-OTPs-Roundtable-Feedback-Survey>



Thank you!

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