

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS

State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation**MEMORANDUM****DATE:** September 12, 2013**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators
County Health Department Nursing Directors
HIV/AIDS Program Coordinators
HIV/AIDS Contract Managers
Ryan White Part B Lead Agencies**FROM:** R.S. Whisenhunt, Chief 
Bureau of Communicable Disease**SUBJECT:** Prevention and Patient Care Program Notice #003 HIV Testing and Linkage to Care

On April 11, 2013, Prevention and Patient Care Program Notice #001 was distributed announcing a recent release on Linkage to Care from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This release was a collaborative approach between HRSA and the CDC to encourage a system which would quickly link individuals who have received a preliminary positive HIV test into medical care regardless of the funding stream.

Further clarification was received from HRSA, and Prevention and Patient Care Program Notice #002 was issued on July 2, 2013 confirming that newly infected individuals with only a preliminary positive test could only be linked to care and would not receive any specific medical or laboratory services requiring Ryan White funding until a confirmatory test was available and the client completed all core eligibility requirements.

The HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Section has received additional clarification from HRSA on August 15, 2013 that establishes that Ryan White Program Parts A-D funds may be used, if needed, to pay for counseling about HIV testing and a limited evaluation that includes confirmatory HIV testing and potentially other HIV labs. In the rare instance that a confirmatory test is negative, any expended Ryan White program funds would not have to be reimbursed to the program. This additional clarification should strengthen and support linking the newly diagnosed into care in their communities.

If you have further questions about this matter, please contact Joe May at (850) 245-4421, or Marlene LaLota at (850) 245-4423.

cc: Ryan White Part A Administrators
Ryan White Part C Programs
Sherry Riley, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Section Administrator
Marlene LaLota, MPH, HIV Prevention Program Manager
Joe May, HIV Patient Care Program Manager

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