



# Enhancing the Routine Screening Infrastructure to Address a Syphilis Epidemic in Miami-Dade County



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# Note



*The FOCUS Program is a public health initiative that enables partners to develop and share best practices in routine blood-borne virus (HIV, HCV, HBV) screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care in accordance with screening guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), and state and local public health departments.*

*FOCUS funding supports HIV, HCV, and HBV screening and linkage to the first medical appointment after diagnosis. FOCUS partners do not use FOCUS awards for activities beyond linkage to the first medical appointment.*

# FOCUS Partner At-A-Glance



**Homestead  
Hospital**

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

- 140 bed hospital in South Miami-Dade County
- 100,000 Emergency Department visits annually
- Population – ethnically diverse, largely Hispanic and African American
- Policy-driven HIV/HCV screening and linkage to care program
- Formal collaboration with Miami-Dade County DoH for linkage and data reconciliation



# PROGRAM FINDINGS



- Since May 2016, Homestead has screened over 38,000 ED patients for HIV and HCV:
  - 1% HIV seropositivity and has linked 86% of patients to care, including 100% of newly diagnosed patients
  - 3% HCV seropositivity with 67% linkage to care
- UNCOVERING UNEXPECTED SEROPOSITIVITY
  - The routine screening model revealed the black female HIV seropositivity is extremely high
  - ***Though black females were only 16% of the total tested, they represented nearly 40% of total HIV positives***  
(i.e., 2.4% HIV seropositivity amongst black females; 5.4% in one month).

## HIV Testing

This facility performs HIV testing as part of routine healthcare as recommended by the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in its 2006 Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing and as provided for in Florida Statute 381.004(2)(a)1.

We perform routine HIV tests on our patients so that we can try to identify people who have HIV and diagnose them so they can seek treatment and reduce their risk of transmitting HIV to others.

Our medical providers will order an HIV test only if additional blood tests also are being performed during your Emergency Department visit.

If you do not want to be tested for HIV, you must tell the medical provider or nurse who notifies you about performing the HIV test.

## Pruebas de VIH

Esta instalación realiza pruebas de detección de VIH como parte de la atención médica de rutina, como ha sido recomendado por los Centros Para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades de los EE.UU. (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) en sus Recomendaciones Actualizadas Para Pruebas de VIH 2006 y como ha sido establecido en el Estatuto de la Florida número 381.004(2)(a)1.

Nosotros realizamos pruebas de VIH como rutina a nuestros pacientes para tratar de identificar a las personas que tengan el VIH y diagnosticarlas para que puedan recibir tratamiento y reducir su riesgo de transmitir el VIH a otras personas.

Nuestros profesionales de atención médica ordenarán una prueba de detección de VIH sólo si se le están siendo realizadas pruebas de sangre adicionales durante su visita al Departamento de Emergencia.

Si usted no desea recibir la prueba de detección de VIH, usted debe decirse al profesional de atención médica o al enfermero(a) que le notifique acerca de la realización de dicha prueba.

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If you do not want to be tested for HIV, you must tell the medical provider or nurse who notifies you about performing the HIV test.

# Policy-Driven Screening Program



***“As hospital policy, your labs will include an HIV test unless you decline. Do you have any questions?”***

**Patient was informed and did not refuse the test.**

- ☒ Yes, order test
- ☐ No, patient refused (indicate reason/s why below)
- ☐ Not informed of policy (indicate reason/s why below)

**Reason patient refused:**

- ☐ HIV +
- ☐ Recently tested elsewhere
- ☐ Not at risk
- ☐ Doesn't want to know results
- ☐ Refused to provide reason
- ☐ Other:

**Reason patient not informed of policy:**

- ☐ No other blood draw ordered
- ☐ Medically unable to provide consent
- ☐ Other:

# Discharge Instructions



H ED Patient Summaryv8	Patient	Clinical
Education	be discussed with your physician(s) and pharmacist.	
Date	<b>Radiology Orders:</b>	
Times	Abd Pel CT WO IV WO PO Con 08/02/17 13:55:00 EDT, Stat, Reason: Abdominal pain, Abdominal Pain, Transport Mode: Stretcher	
on Documentation	Chest Single View XR 08/02/17 13:55:00 EDT, Stat, Reason: Other (please specify), nausea	
atient Chart	<b>Laboratory Orders:</b>	
re View and I&O	Order Name	
e/Other Facility	<b>Patient Care Orders:</b>	
	<b>Comment:</b>	
	<b>QA Nurse (786)-243-8127</b>	
	If there are abnormal lab/diagnostic results from your emergency department visit, you will be contacted by the quality nurse from Homestead Hospital. Please ensure that your phone number is current in our records. To obtain a copy of your lab/diagnostic reports, please visit the Medical Records Department with proper identification.	
	Your lab work today may have included an HIV or Hepatitis C test. You must contact a Linkage to Care Specialist at 786-573-6879 for your results and medical follow-up care.	
	Sus laboratorios del día de hoy pueden haber incluido una prueba de VIH o de hepatitis C. Debe ponerse en contacto con un Especialista en Vinculación al Cuidado al 786-573-6879 para obtener sus resultados y recibir atención médica.	



# Elements for Formalized Partnership



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MIAMI-DADE)**

**AND**

**HOMESTEAD HOSPITAL**

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (Agreement) addresses the collaborative efforts of Homestead Hospital, (Provider) and State of Florida, Department of Health (Department).

**A. SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

1. Provider agrees to:
  - a. Make every reasonable effort to link 90% of HIV positive clients to outreach linkage-to-care coordinator in accordance with all DOH policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding Confidential HIV Counseling, Testing, and Linkage Services are taken to ensure that clients have access to the service(s).
  - b. Report HIV positive test results with identifying information (including: client name, address, telephone number, date of birth, race, sex, country of birth, ethnicity), risk information, test date, and type of test performed for all clients testing confidentially to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, HIV/AIDS Surveillance program. All confidential reports must be placed in a double sealed envelope (with the inner envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL) prior to hand delivery or by mail. Contact the Surveillance Supervisor regarding issues related to HIV/AIDS Surveillance reporting:
- c. Refer ALL confidential HIV positive test results on clients not returning for post-test counseling within 1 day of the scheduled return date to the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) assigned to Homestead Hospital or to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, STD Surveillance program:

**Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade**  
1350 NW14th street, Suite F302  
Miami, FL 33125  
Attention: Area Field Manager  
Phone: (305) 470-6982

**STD Surveillance Manager**  
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade  
STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program  
1350 NW 14th Street, 4th Floor, Room 402  
Miami, FL 33125  
(305) 575-3800 Ext. 35013



# Working Together



## Florida Department of Health's contribution:

- Provision of a dedicated Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)
- HIV NAAT testing
- HCV RNA testing
- Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination assay (TP-PA) testing



# An 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Ailment is Back...



*Syphilis Cases Rising in  
South Florida*

**Miami Herald**

*Miami Has a Serious Syphilis Problem*

**ORLANDO  
WEEKLY**

*How Syphilis Came Roaring Back,  
The 18th-century ailment was on the brink of  
elimination before budget cuts helped resurrect it*

*the Atlantic*

*"Syphilis Tsunami" Ad Along I-95 Aims  
to Shock Miami Into Action*

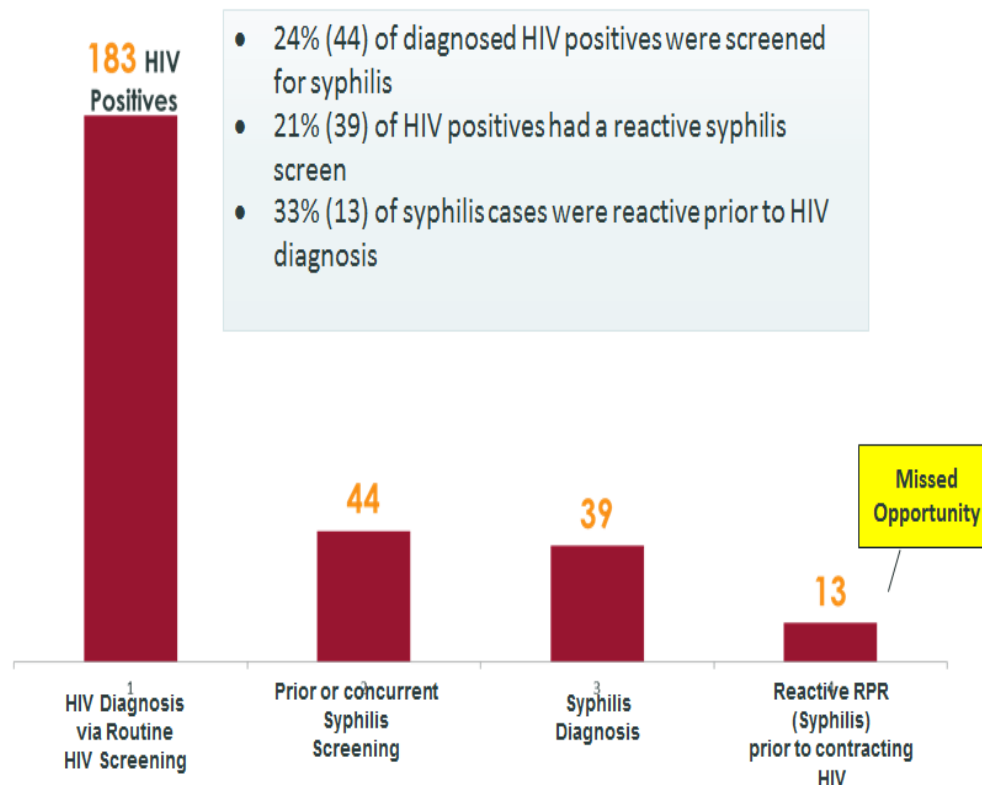
  
**Business Wire**  
A Berkshire Hathaway Company

# Intersection of Routine HIV Screening, Syphilis and HIV Prevention Opportunities



May 2016 - October 2017

18,000 HIV Screens, 1.0% seropositivity



A retrospective audit with the DoH determined that of the 183 patients diagnosed positive for HIV via routine testing:

- 24% (44) were screened for syphilis
- 21% (39) had a reactive syphilis screen
- 33% (13) of syphilis cases were found to be reactive prior to HIV diagnosis.

# Enhancing the Routine Screening Infrastructure to Address a Syphilis Epidemic



Rule based upon the reason for medical visit as well as the results for the indicators set forth below:

+ Qualitative Pregnancy Test

**OR**

+ STD result (GC/Chlamydia) – on date of service and historical results



**Triggers order for Syphilis Test (Qual)**



**+ Syphilis Screen Plus  
– HIV result → Linked to DoH**

# REASON FOR MEDICAL VISIT – PNED TERMS & CODES

Expert Editor:

**OPT\_DIAGNOSIS**

Genital Itching/Lesions, Rash, Urethral discharge, Vaginal discharge, Observation of vaginal discharge, Genital itching, Vaginal pain, Penile Pain, STD exposure

Search  Starts with:

Terminology

☐ Include inactive items

type filter text

Term	Axis	Code	Terminology
Genital Itching/Lesions	Finding	0496FCF6-7B95-47D4-8820-F566CB0DF28D	PNED
Rash	Finding	C8AC3873-CA32-4550-9024-5F68D7FF0A6B	PNED
Urethral discharge	Finding	B4CF4D60-3EE9-424A-A658-6A1E65DB898D	PNED
Vaginal discharge	Finding	D1744771-BECD-4D8A-A2F2-36731BA6754E	PNED
Observation of vaginal discharge	Finding	90FA3D2C-A36C-4705-A622-141EB2D99C6F	PNED
Genital itching	Finding	EFF45F82-7F85-41CA-9C6A-BC897EB8D780	PNED
Vaginal pain	Finding	CC837EA0-06A7-49C8-A844-C95115E84E7D	PNED
Penile Pain	Finding	A4A59A53-8AC5-43EE-A3C0-4DC45465D13C	PNED
STD exposure	Events	D6BC65AA-03BD-4B9A-B6C6-40338A4911FB	PNED

type filter text

Term	Axis	Code	Terminology
Genital Itching/Lesions	Finding	0496FCF6-7B95-47D4-8820-F566CB0DF28D	PNED
Rash	Finding	C8AC3873-CA32-4550-9024-5F68D7FF0A6B	PNED
Urethral discharge	Finding	B4CF4D60-3EE9-424A-A658-6A1E65DB898D	PNED
Vaginal discharge	Finding	D1744771-BECD-4D8A-A2F2-36731BA6754E	PNED
Observation of vaginal discharge	Finding	90FA3D2C-A36C-4705-A622-141EB2D99C6F	PNED
Genital itching	Finding	EFF45F82-7F85-41CA-9C6A-BC897EB8D780	PNED
Vaginal pain	Finding	CC837EA0-06A7-49C8-A844-C95115E84E7D	PNED
Penile Pain	Finding	A4A59A53-8AC5-43EE-A3C0-4DC45465D13C	PNED
STD exposure	Events	D6BC65AA-03BD-4B9A-B6C6-40338A4911FB	PNED

☐ Show hidden values

# POSITIVE QUALITATIVE PREGNANCY TEST RESULT

The image displays two screenshots of a medical software interface, likely an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, showing patient information and test results.

**Top Screenshot (Patient: screen, patient):**

- Menu:** Patient Summary, Interactive View and I&O, Documentation, MAR, Orders (+ Add), Medication List (+ Add), Notes (+ Add), Diagnosis & Problems, Activities and Interventions, Allergies (+ Add), Histories, Growth Chart.
- Patient Information:** screen, patient, DOB: 11/22/1990, Age: 27 years, Dose Wt: ER FIN: 910047901 (Admit Dt: 11/14/2017), Allergies: Peanuts, No Known Medication Allergies, Patient Portal: No.
- Results Review:** Flowsheet, Lab - Recent, Lab - Extended, Diagnostics, Vital Signs, Assessments View, Quality Measures D.
- Flowsheet:** Quick View, Level: Quick View, November 14, 2017 10:36 EST - January 12, 2018.
- Navigator:** Hormones.
- Test Results:** Quick View, 11/16/2017 16:14 EST, Hormones, Pregnancy Test-Blood(Qual), Positive (A).

**Bottom Screenshot (Patient: hiv, screening):**

- Menu:** Patient Summary, Interactive View and I&O, Documentation, MAR, Orders (+ Add), Medication List (+ Add), Notes (+ Add), Diagnosis & Problems, Activities and Interventions, Allergies (+ Add), Histories, Growth Chart, Demographics, Form Browser, CMS Infusion Report, Immunization Schedule, MAR Summary, Reference, Results Review, Flowsheet.
- Patient Information:** hiv, screening, DOB: 08/09/1980, Age: 37 years, Dose Wt: ER FIN: 910047896 (Admit Dt: 11/14/2017), Allergies: Peanuts, Patient Portal: No.
- Results Review:** Flowsheet, Lab - Recent, Lab - Extended, Diagnostics, Vital Signs, Assessments View, Quality Measures D.
- Flowsheet:** Quick View, Level: Quick View, November 14, 2017 09:37 EST - January 12, 2018.
- Navigator:** Hormones.
- Test Results:** Quick View, 11/16/2017 16:16 EST, Hormones, Pregnancy Test on Urine, Positive (A).

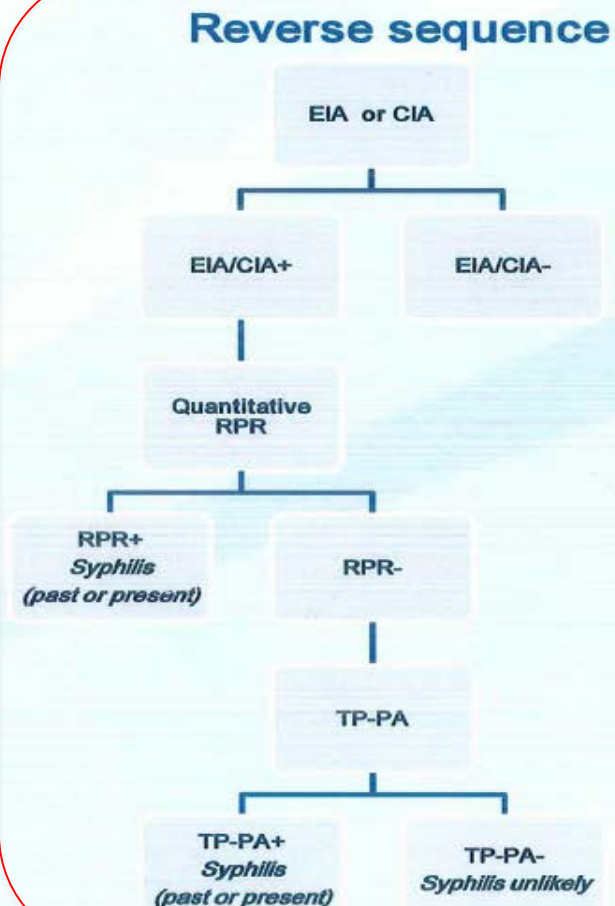
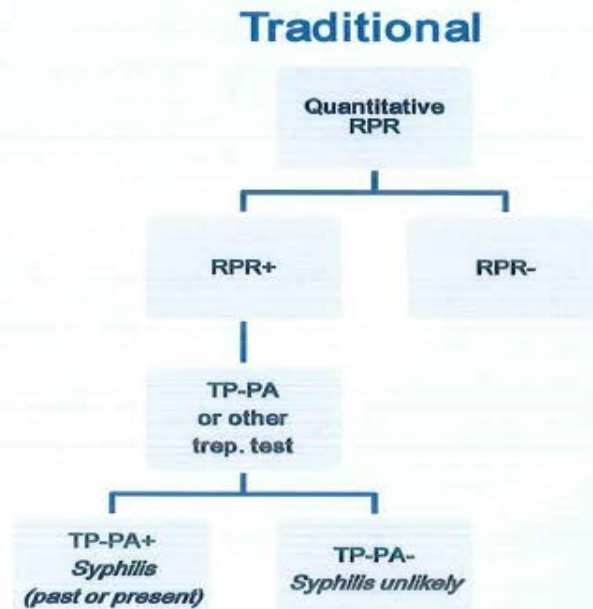
# CURRENT OR HISTORICAL STD RESULT

The screenshot displays a medical software interface for reviewing patient results. On the left is a sidebar with various navigation options. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'Flowsheet', 'Lab - Recent', 'Lab - Extended', 'Diagnostics', 'Vital Signs', 'Assessments View', 'Quality Measures Data', and 'Cardiovascular'. The 'Flowsheet' tab is active, showing a 'Quick View' of results for the period 'November 07, 2017 16:02 EST - January 12, 2018 16:47 EST (Admit to Current Date)'. The 'Navigator' on the left lists 'Hormones', 'General Serology', and 'Molecular Infectious'. The 'Molecular Infectious' section is highlighted with a red box, showing the following results:

Quick View		11/07/2017 16:14 EST
<b>Hormones</b>		
Beta HCG-Serum (Quant)	25,000.0 * (H)	
<b>General Serology</b>		
RPR	REACTIVE 1:64 (A)	
FTA	Reactive	
<b>Molecular Infectious</b>		
N. gonorrhoeae Amplified DNA	Detected * (!)	
C. trachomatis Amplified DNA	Detected (!)	



# Syphilis Serologic Screening Algorithms



# SYPHILIS DATA HIGHLIGHTS: HOMESTEAD HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

April – December 2018

- 2,532 Syphilis Tests performed

- 2.74% seropositivity
- 43% were new cases
- 25% were pregnant women:
  - 19 field records with the DoH
    - 68.42% (13) were previously treated
    - 31.57% (6) were brought to treatment
      - *We were able to avert 6 cases of congenital syphilis in our community.*



## SIGNIFICANT CASES

- **Case Study #1:**
  - An identified gay male in his late 30s
  - History of Syphilis and who was non-responsive to prior treatment
  - Presented to HH otherwise asymptomatic, however complaint of a headache
  - after being triaged, the smart algorithm triggered a syphilis test order—based upon the patients historical positive STD results
  - Reactive RPR titer of 1:256, confirmed neurosyphilis
  - Co-diagnosed a year ago with HIV
  - The patient was then treated with Penicillin IV q 4h x 14 days

## SIGNIFICANT CASES

- Case Study #2:
  - A male in his mid-20s
  - Chief complaint (CC) - penile rash
  - Tested negative for GC/Chlamydia
  - Despite negative results, the algorithm triggered a syphilis test order based on the primary CC.
    - Patient treated based on guidelines
  - An opportunity for prevention of future HIV infection.

# RE-LINKAGE ALERTS

ED HIV/HCV/Syphilis Care - screening, reengage

\*Performed on: 12/31/2018 1209 EST By: Castillo, Ileana A

### HIV Care

**HIV Care**

☒ N/A  
☐ Previously received care  
☐ In care  
☐ Not in care

**Results Disclosed by FOCUS Team**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Needs to be Connected w/HIV Care**

☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Corrections Patient

### HCV Care

**HCV Care**

☐ N/A  
☐ In care  
☐ Not in care  
☐ RNA Viral Load Undetectab

**Results Disclosed by FOCUS Team**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Needs to be Connected w/HCV Care**

☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Corrections Patient

### Syphilis Care

**Syphilis Care**

☐ N/A  
☐ Previously received care  
☐ In care  
☐ Not in care

**Results Disclosed by FOCUS Team**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Needs to be Connected w/Syphilis Care**

☒ Yes  
☐ No

### Contact Information

**Contact Information**

☐ Accurate  
☒ Missing  
☒ Unable to be reached

**Thank You!**

**Any Questions?**

