

# Memorandum

**To:** Physician offices

**From:** Sharon McCormick, MS, MT (ASCP)  
Manager of Microbiology

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**Date:** August 5, 2011

**Subject:** **CHANGES TO HIV TESTING POLICY**

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**Effective August 5, 2011**

## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO HIV TESTING POLICY AT BAYSTATE REFERENCE LABORATORIES**

- Providers should discontinue sending signed HIV consents to the laboratory. Ordering providers are responsible for obtaining signed written consent and must file that document in patient's medical record.
- BH practices that order on CIS should scan in the consent.
- Diagnostic tests for HIV (HIV antibody and HIV qualitative PCR) continue to require written informed consent filed in the patient's medical record as described above.
- Monitoring tests for HIV (HIV viral load and phenotypic/genotypic resistance tests) no longer require signed consent as long as the original signed consent is filed in the patient's medical record.
- Outpatients wishing to self-pay for HIV testing must request this option when having blood drawn.

No changes to consent policy for employee or first responder blood/body fluid exposures. Please continue to forward a signed informed consent to Microbiology Laboratory.

Please contact Client Services at 413-322-4000, Bj Goodwin at 413-322-4002, or Sharon McCormick at 413-794- 1161 with any questions. Thank you.