Policy: It shall be the policy of the Division to protect consumers and staff from infection by the AIDS virus by testing consumers who may be at risk for infection on admission to a Division inpatient facility.

Purpose: The Division is responsible for ensuring the protection and safety of consumers upon admission to a Division inpatient facility.

Procedures:

I. The Division will test, using standard medical tests, any newly admitted inpatient who has a reported history of unprotected sexual activity or intravenous drug use; who received a blood transfusion between January 1978 and July 1985; persons deemed a high risk by medical authority; or persons who indicate they have AIDS or have been exposed to the AIDS virus.

II. Inpatients who refuse to be tested shall be regarded as HIV positive and equivalent agency's infection control procedures shall be implemented.

III. Inpatients who test positive or have an AIDS diagnosis shall be counseled regarding their condition. The counseling shall include both health and safety issues for themselves and those they may come in contact with and emotional support.

IV. Test results shall be treated as confidential information. Test results will be made available to the extent necessary to ensure adequate treatment of the consumer and to protect the health and safety of others. Unwarranted violations by staff of the consumer's right to privacy in this regard may result in disciplinary action.

V. Direct care staff of inpatient units may voluntarily choose to be tested for infection by the AIDS virus at Division expense.

VI. Current consumers deemed to be at risk for infection by the AIDS virus shall be tested. Those who refuse to be tested will be treated according to the agency's infection control procedures as if they are infected.

VII. Each inpatient agency shall develop specific written procedures to implement the provision of this policy or shall incorporate this policy into the agency policy manual.

Administrator

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