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[TITLE:] THE STATUS OF PCRS GUIDELINES AND LATEST POLICY ISSUES

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SUMMARY: There has been no decline in the estimated annual number of new HIV infections in the United States since the early 1990s. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS) a key strategy for reducing HIV transmission in the United States. Published literature and program data indicate PCRS is effective and cost-effective for reaching persons at very high risk for HIV infection and is acceptable to individuals seeking HIV testing, HIV-infected persons, and notified partners. However, available information indicates PCRS is highly underutilized. Currently, two CDC documents provide guidance related to HIV partner services. To simplify and clarify CDC's recommendations, a single guidelines document is desirable, and, because partner services for HIV and other STDs have substantial similarities, is also feasible. Where needed, principles and requirements unique to HIV can be addressed within a single document. For these reasons, CDC is revising and updating the CDC HIV PCRS guidance and integrating it with CDC's guidelines for STD partner services, using an evidence-based approach. The new document will provide a single, unified set of guidelines to serve as the basis for CDC-funded HIV partner services programs and training and capacitybuilding assistance related to PCRS. The anticipated completion date is late fall 2006.



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