Making HIV Testing a Routine Component of Gynecologic Care for All Women

Gynecologists are in a unique position to identify HIV infection in both their non-pregnant and pregnant patients

Gyns perform 14 million gynecologic exams and 1.5 million general exams per year

ISSUES

While almost 100% of ob-gyns recommend HIV testing to all pregnant patients at least once during each pregnancy, less than 22% of ob-gyns recommend routine HIV screening to all non-pregnant patients.

Why? A 2009-2010 survey of College Fellows* found:

- 87% reported a low-risk patient population as the primary reason for not screening all non-pregnant women for HIV
- Physicians in solo/group nonurban practices were least likely to recommend testing to all non-pregnant patients (15%) compared to solo/group urban (22%) and community/university (37%) practices
- 56% reported knowing their state's HIV testing requirements
- 50% 75% were correct about their state's HIV testing requirements



SOLUTIONS

The College developed and distributed provider tools to increase routine HIV screening among women

- Women and HIV Website www.womenandhiv.org
- 2. Gynecologic Care for Women with HIV Infection
 A web-based tutorial with CME credits
- 3. Blue Folder
 Toolkit for providers on routine HIV screening
- 4. Physician Script Card Routine HIV Screening
- 5. College Guidelines
 - Routine HIV Screening (C.O. 411)
 - HIV and AIDS and Women of Color (C.O. 536)
 - Gyn Care for Women with HIV (P.B. 117)

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to promote HIV screening as a routine component of gynecologic care for all women
- Collaborate with other organizations and agencies to promote HIV screening as a routine component of preconception care
- Conduct activities to educate providers about state HIV testing requirements for non-pregnant women
- Conduct a follow-up survey to determine if rates of routine HIV screening have increased among ob-gyns since the 2009-2010 study

