

The MMP is vital to the future of HIV care, treatment, prevention and support services.

Your participation is essential to the success of this project. Your influence in and knowledge of the community is an asset to the patients for whom you provide care. Together, we can gain a better understanding of the ever-changing nature of HIV infection.

Providers and patients can contact their state or local health department for more information on the MMP.

For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/treatment/index.htm

Questions & Answers

- **How are providers and patients chosen?**
Providers and patients are chosen randomly using scientific methods, without names or other identifying information.
- **What is my role as a provider if selected?**
To assist health department staff gather the information they need to facilitate patient participation in the interview, and encourage patients to participate. By participating, you are representing providers like you who were not selected.
- **As a provider, do I still play a role even if my facility is not selected during the sampling process?**
Yes, providing your estimated patient load to the health department is an important contribution to the MMP even if you are not selected. Providers may play a role in future project years as a new sample of providers will be selected each year.
- **As a provider, what if I choose not to participate?**
If you choose not to participate, you will be refusing participation for all of your patients. You will not be replaced by another provider in the sample.
- **For providers who participate, how much of their time will be involved?**
State and local health department staff will conduct all data collection activities so that your staff and services to your patients will not be disrupted.
- **How can I be certain that patients' privacy will be maintained?**
All measures will be taken to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality. Patient, provider and facility names will not be transmitted to the CDC.
- **Can patients decline or withdraw from participating?**
Yes, patients may decline or change their minds about participating at any time. However, patients selected represent other patients in care, so their participation is important.
- **Will patients be compensated for their time?**
Yes, there will be compensation for patients who participate.



Department of Health and Human Services

MEDICAL MONITORING PROJECT

Information for Providers



Sponsored by
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The National Institutes of Health
The Health Resources and Services Administration



The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) is a new surveillance project conducted by your state or local health department, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It is designed to produce nationally representative data on people living with HIV/AIDS that are receiving care in the United States.

The goals of this project are to:

- 1) provide local and national estimates for the population in care for HIV;
- 2) determine health-related behaviors and access to and use of prevention and support services;
- 3) gain knowledge of care and treatment provided; and
- 4) examine variations of factors by geographic area and patient characteristics.

The data from the project will be used to inform HIV prevention community planning groups, Ryan White CARE Act planning councils and consortia, providers of HIV care, people living with HIV/AIDS and others to advocate for reducing the gaps in existing resources. The data from MMP will provide an opportunity for policy decisions, resource allocation, and evaluation of prevention and treatment initiatives at the local and national levels to be based on population-based data.

Initially, your state or local health department will be contacting you to get an estimate of the number of HIV-positive patients to whom you provided care during the project period. These numbers, along with estimates from other facilities across the 26 participating areas, will be used to draw a random sample of all HIV care providers. Providers that are selected through this process will be contacted by the health department and later, patients will be randomly selected from those providers.

Providing this preliminary information to the health department will assist in characterizing the providers in your area. If you are selected, the HIV-positive community and the community of care providers will benefit by your participation. By participating you will be representing providers similar to you who care for HIV-positive patients. If you are not selected, you will be represented by providers like you. Data collected and outcomes determined from MMP will help to demonstrate how care is impacting the health of people with HIV in your community.

If you choose to participate, state and local health department representatives will conduct all data collection activities so as to not disrupt you, your staff, or services to your patients. Security and confidentiality of personal and health care information will be strictly maintained. Names of participating facilities, providers and patients will not be disclosed to the CDC.

Finally, we need your help to encourage patients to participate. Maximizing participation will increase the likelihood of obtaining information that is truly representative of patients in care for HIV locally and across the US.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 permits health care providers to disclose protected health information to public health authorities for the purposes of preventing or controlling disease, for example, as part of this public health surveillance project. For more information about HIPAA and the MMP or other surveillance projects, please contact your state or local health department.