



## **Peer review plan for “Updated Recommendations for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening of Gay, Bisexual and Other Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) in Clinical Settings”**

**Title:** Recommendations for HIV Screening of Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men – Clinical Settings, United States, 2017

**Subject of Planned Report:** This report will outline the current scientific data regarding screening MSM for HIV and provide updated recommendations for the frequency of screening for this group. The report will not address frequency of screening for persons other than MSM in the United States.

**Purpose of Planned Report:** The purpose of this report is to provide guidance on how frequently MSM should be screened for HIV in clinical settings. The planned report will outline the current state of the scientific evidence on frequency of screening, and will update the 2006 CDC recommendations for HIV screening in clinical settings among MSM.

**Type of Dissemination:** ISI

**Timing of Review:** June – August 2016

**Type of Review:** individual

**Opportunities for the Public to Comment (How and When):** In 2014, subject-matter experts participated in a consultation describing the results from a systematic literature review of the scientific evidence published between 2005 - 2014 comparing annual HIV screening for MSM versus more frequent (e.g., 3- to 6-month) screening intervals, weighed the relative risk and benefits to screening all MSM or subgroups of MSM at these frequencies, and identified additional data needed for future analyses. Subject-matter experts were invited due to their knowledge of the research on frequency of HIV screening (including cost-effectiveness); experience managing HIV screening programs for MSM; or knowledge about the opinions of MSM with regards to HIV screening. Draft versions of the HIV screening recommendations and supporting data were also presented for comment at two public conferences: the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) annual meeting in 2013, and 2014. Additional public engagement and verbal comment was solicited in August 2015 from members of community-based organizations who conduct HIV screening among MSM.

**Peer reviewers provided with Public Comments before the Review:** No; comments will be provided at time of the review.

**Anticipated number of Reviewers:** 3

**Primary disciplines of Expertise:** Researchers on cost-effectiveness of HIV screening programs; directors and administrators of HIV/AIDS prevention and screening programs.

**Reviewers Selected by** (agency or designated outside organization): CDC

**Nominations Requested for Reviewers:** No

**Charge to Peer Reviewers:**

CDC has determined that the updated recommendations for the frequency of HIV screening among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) constitute scientific information that will have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies and private sector decisions. The Information Quality Act requires peer review of these draft recommendations by specialists in the field who were not involved in their development to ensure the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information disseminated by Federal agencies. We would like to invite you to serve as a peer reviewer.

These recommendations describe a review of the scientific literature comparing whether there are benefits to MSM screening for HIV at a higher frequency (biannually or quarterly) compared with the previous recommendation made by CDC in 2006 that MSM should be screened at least annually. They also describe the results of an expert consultation held during 2014 and considerations for future research. They are intended for use by clinicians and other health care providers authorized to conduct HIV screening. In your review of the recommendations, we ask that you:

1. Provide an evaluation of the updated recommendations overall and their applicability for screening MSM with HIV;
2. Evaluate the appropriateness of the methods used to develop these recommendations and the strength of the authors' inferences;
3. Point out any omissions or oversights in the literature cited as the evidence base for these recommendations;
4. Identify any biases, oversights, omissions, or inconsistencies in the interpretations, findings, and conclusions;
5. Provide advice on the reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence;
6. Ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, that the potential implications of any uncertainties for the proposed recommendations are clear, and
7. Assess whether the authors sufficiently acknowledge limitations in the evidence used to develop the recommendations and any limitations of the recommendations themselves for the intended purpose of screening MSM for HIV infection.

We would also welcome other comments, for example, on improving their implementation or uptake or other suggestions about the use of terminology, etc.

Thank you once again for your assistance with the review of these updated recommendations. We recognize and appreciate the commitment of time and energy this this will involve. After receiving your comments, we will forward to all reviewers a

copy of CDC's responses to all the comments received and also post them on <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/planning.html> without commenter attribution.

Additional elements to be added to the public posting as they become available

**For each Peer Reviewer Selected:**

Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial  
Academic and Professional Credentials  
Current Position Title  
Organizational Affiliation(s)  
Areas of Expertise, Discipline, Relevant Experiences  
Recommended by Scientific/Professional Society or General Public

1.

Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial: Leandro Mena, MD, MPH  
Academic and Professional Credentials: MD, MPH  
Current Position Title: University of Mississippi Medical Center, Director, Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education and Policy for the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities  
Organizational Affiliation(s): Associate Professor of Medicine with the Division of Infectious Diseases  
Medical Director, Crossroads Clinic, MSDH  
Medical Director, Open Arms Healthcare Center, Jackson, MS  
Areas of Expertise, Discipline, Relevant Experiences: Dr. Mena is a physician with specialty training in infectious diseases. He has more than 12 years of experience in clinical and epidemiological research in the area of sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), with special interest in the dynamics of transmission and the role that social determinants of health play in perpetuating these epidemics in sexual and gender minority populations. He currently supervises a research team dedicated to clinical and epidemiologic research, and serves as the medical director of the Crossroads Clinic (STD/HIV clinic in Jackson, Miss.), and Open Arms Healthcare Center, a community based clinic that offers primary care services with an emphasis in the health care needs for LGBT populations in Jackson, MS.  
Recommended by Scientific/Professional Society or General Public: No

2.

Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial: David R. Holtgrave, PhD  
Academic and Professional Credentials: PhD  
Current Position Title: Chair, Department of Health, Behavior, and Society  
Professor  
Organizational Affiliation(s): Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Co-director, Center for Implementation Research, Johns Hopkins  
Interim Director, Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion.

**Areas of Expertise, Discipline, Relevant Experiences:** Since 2005, Dr. Holtgrave has been Professor and Chair of the Department of Health, Behavior and Society at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. From 2001 to 2005, Dr. Holtgrave was Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. There he served as Director of the Behavioral & Social Science Core of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). From 1997 to 2001, Dr. Holtgrave was Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention: Intervention Research and Support in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has worked in the field of HIV since 1991. His research focuses on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a variety of HIV prevention, care, treatment, and housing interventions, and the relation of the findings of these studies to HIV/AIDS policy making.

**Recommended by Scientific/Professional Society or General Public:** No

3.

**Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial:** Matthew Golden, MD

**Academic and Professional Credentials:** MD

**Current Position Title:** Professor, Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

**Organizational Affiliation(s):** University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Director, Public Health - Seattle & King County HIV/STD STD Control Program**

**Areas of Expertise, Discipline, Relevant Experiences:** The primary focus of Dr. Golden's group is on operational research evaluating new public health interventions to control sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. This work is conducted as a collaboration between UW and Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), and provides fellows training opportunities that integrate research and public health practice. Dr. Golden is also the principle investigator on a CDC grant to provide capacity-building assistance to U.S. health departments in order to promote high-impact HIV prevention. The grant provides training opportunities for persons interested in careers in HIV/STD related public health practice. Finally, Dr. Golden works on research projects and public health programmatic activities related to HIV partner services in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Recommended by Scientific/Professional Society or General Public:** No

Updated January, 2017