

SUBJECT: HIV TESTING IN WOMEN, RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
(ACCOG)

REFERRED TO: Committee on Public Affairs

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1 WHEREAS, Women represent the fastest growing population of persons infected with HIV  
2 in this country and heterosexual transmission has become a much bigger factor; and

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that one-quarter of all Americans with HIV are unaware of their  
4 status. Women continue to represent a growing proportion of HIV and AIDS cases  
5 and it is critical that they know their status. This knowledge can improve a women’s  
6 chance of survival, reduce associated illnesses, help them take steps to avoid  
7 unintended pregnancy, protect their sexual partners, and reduce the likelihood of  
8 mother-to-child transmission should pregnancy occur; and

9 WHEREAS, Opt-out testing or screening, defined as when a patient is notified that HIV  
10 testing will be performed as a routine part of their gynecologic and obstetric care  
11 unless the patient declines the procedure would be an optimal solution to this  
12 growing concern; and

13 WHEREAS, Opt-out testing does not require a signed consent or prevention counseling,  
14 although many state and local laws are not consistent with opt-out testing and may  
15 require informed consent or counseling; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, that the AOA recommends that routine opt-out HIV screening be performed  
17 on all women ages 19 to 64, regardless of pregnancy status or what their risk factors  
18 may be, and that this screening also be recommended for women who are at high  
19 risk – sexually active teenagers under the age of 19 as well as women older than 64  
20 who have had multiple partners in recent years.

**ACTION TAKEN REFERRED BACK TO THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
OSTEOPATHIC OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS TO CLARIFY THE  
TERM “OPT-OUT”, TO CLARIFY WHY AGES ARE INCLUDED IN THE  
RESOLUTION, AND TO MAKE THE RESOLUTION CONSISTENT WITH THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND  
PREVENTION**

DATE 7/17/09