



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 16-99

October 5, 1999

**TO: SHERIFFS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION,
MEDICAL DIRECTORS**

**RE: CLINICIAN'S GUIDE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF HIV POST-EXPOSURE
PROPHYLAXIS**

The Commission has been receiving an increasing number of questions regarding the development of a policy and procedure for occupational exposure to blood during altercations or by accident, such as a needle stick.

For jails located in a city or populous county, the county health department may be a resource to develop post-exposure protocol. This can include the jail physician and nursing staff, but they must be educated to use the protocol because important decisions as to HIV testing and prophylactic treatment must follow exposure. This front line evaluation and treatment will be very important as a defense in possible development of HIV infection and a possible source of liability for the county. Post-exposure evaluation, confidential HIV testing and, most important, prophylactic treatment must start **within 24 hours**.

It is important for all jails that will need to use an emergency room for this protocol to work with the local hospital emergency room director to develop a policy and procedure as to how this protocol can be implemented on a 24 hour, seven day a week basis. If your local emergency room does not have the staff qualified to provide this protocol, a contract with the closest teaching hospital will be necessary to provide evaluation and treatment. Regardless of what avenue is pursued, each facility must educate their staff regarding in-house procedures. The procedure should be posted in the tour commander's office for easy access.

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has developed a pamphlet (attached), entitled "Clinician's Guide to the Management of HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Following Occupational Exposure."

If there are any questions regarding development of this policy, please contact Bill Gaunay RN or Peggy Loffredo RN of our Forensic Medical Unit.

Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner

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