

**Government of Punjab**  
**Department of Health and Family Welfare**  
**(Health - & Branch)**

TO

1. All Deputy Commissioner, Punjab.
2. All Civil Surgeon, Punjab.
3. All Psychiatrists, Punjab.

Memo No. 7/262/18-3HB4/1308147/1-3  
Dated, Chandigarh: 29-8-2018

**Subject: Guidelines for the screening of HIV, Hepatitis C and TB for drug addicts**

In reference to the issues discussed in the meeting of Deputy Commissioners & CPs/SSPs under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister on 24/7/2018, the following guidelines has been prepared by the department of Health and Family Welfare for the screening of HIV, Hepatitis C and TB for the drug addicts.

**For HIV and Hepatitis C test**

1. The HIV and Hepatitis C tests for the drug addicts can be conducted by the Whole Blood Finger Prick kits.
2. Integrated Counselling and Treatment Centres ( ICTC ) were opened in most of the Public Health Institutions ( District Hospital, Sub Divisional Hospital, CHC and PHC ) and Private hospitals by National Aids Control Organisation ( NACO ) through Punjab State Aids Control Society ( PSACS ) for screening the patients for HIV.
3. At present most of the Government Drug Deaddiction Centres and OOAT Clinics are co located with Stand Alone ICTCs and F-ICTCs, the drug addicts may be counselled and referred to the ICTCs for further screening of HIV and Hepatitis C. If ICTCs are not available in any of the Public Health Institutions, the existing staff i.e. Lab Technician/Staff Nurse/ANM/MPHW will be trained by PSACS and Civil Surgeons office for the screening of the patients and necessary kits will be provided to them by PSACS and NHM for the screening purpose.

4. It is mentioned that the IDU patients are more prone to the Hepatitis C disease. Therefore, the screening test may be conducted for Injecting Drug Users (IDU) in the first phase.
5. If any person found to be Positive for HIV, they will be linked with ART centres for HIV treatment and for Hepatitis C, they will be referred to District Civil Hospital and Government Medical Colleges for further treatment.
6. In private sector, ICTC centres may be opened under the PPP model as defined by the National Aids Control Organisation ( NACO ) for screening of the HIV patients. NACO has defined the three models for private hospitals ( Models A, B and C attached ). Accordingly, the MoU will be signed with the Private Deaddiction Centres and the proper screening will be done by the staff (Staff Nurse/ANM/MPHW) posted in these centres for HIV, Hepatitis C by using the Whole Blood Finger Prick kits. The process for Signing the MoU will be started by the PSACS.
7. For screening of Hepatitis C, the kits will be procured by the Private Deaddiction centres and there will be no minimum charges prescribed for this test. For screening of HIV, the terms and conditions finalised by the NACO will be followed.
8. If any person found to be HIV positive, they will be referred to nearest ART centres for further HIV treatment and the list will be shared with the nearest SA- ICTCs by the Private Deaddiction centres every month.
9. If any person found to be Hepatitis C positive, they will be referred to the concerned District Civil Hospital for further treatment and the list will be shared with concerned Civil Surgeon by the Private De-addiction centres every month.
10. WBFP HIV test kits are required for the testing of the HIV and Hepatitis C will be supplied by NACO and NHM.


#### **For TB test**

The TB test is only compulsory for the addicts who are having the following symptoms

- a. Cough of two weeks or more duration
- b. Blood in sputum

- c. Fever specially in evening or night
- d. Loss of appetite/ loss of weight
- e. Night sweat


If any drug addicts reported with above mentioned Symptoms, they will be referred to the District TB cell headed by District TB Officer (DTO) for further treatment and the list will be shared with District TB cell by all the Government and Private De-addiction centres and OAT clinics.

  
(B. Srinivasan), IAS  
Additional Secretary Health

Endst. No. 7/262/18-3484/1308147/4-11 Dated: 29/8/18

Copy of the above is forwarded to the following :-

1. PS to Hon'ble Health Minister, Punjab for kind information of Hon'ble Health Minister.
2. PS to Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab for kind information of Additional Chief Secretary Health.
3. Mission Director, NRHM, Punjab.
4. Director Health & Family Welfare, Punjab.
5. Additional Project Director, PSACS, Punjab.
6. Programme Officer, Hep-C, o/o DHS
7. Programme Officer, (TB), o/o DHS.,
8. Programme Officer(Mental Health), o/o DHS.

  
(B. Srinivasan), IAS  
Additional Secretary Health