



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

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Dear Doctor,

The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) is a provincial treatment and research facility based at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. As mandated by the Ministry of Health, the role of the BC-CfE is to improve the health of people living with HIV/AIDS by advancing and promoting the most effective programs to treat and prevent HIV. The BC-CfE operates the Drug Treatment Program (DTP) Registry. It collects information about people in BC diagnosed as HIV positive under the authority of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, *Health Professions Act* and the *Public Health Act*.

Since 1992, when patients enrolled into the Drug Treatment Program, the BC-CfE has required signed consent forms from HIV positive patients. Through work with a privacy lawyer and the Privacy Commissioner of BC, under the above Acts, it has been determined consent forms are not required by the BC-CfE.

Physicians can now provide HIV Positive patients with a copy of the attached Patient Information Sheet for Drug Treatment Program Participants. You, the physician, do not have to request patients sign this form and return it to the BC-CfE. The attached form provides information regarding the patient's enrollment into the DTP. The BC-CfE, separate from this form is required to apply annually for ethics approval for research and if approved, under the above Acts, the BC-CfE can use the information from the DTP Registry for research purposes.

Again, you the physician are no longer required to provide a signed consent form of your HIV positive patients for enrollment into the BC-CfE DTP Registry. You will no longer receive the yellow Consent Form or the blue Patient Information Sheet. Instead, please provide your newly enrolled patient with a copy of the attached Patient Information Sheet for Drug Treatment Program Participants. This is the only form from the BC-CfE you need to provide to your patient. We have provided several copies for you in this mailing. In addition, on the BC-CfE web site at cfenet.ubc.ca, you can download additional copies.

If you have any questions related to this information please email Kat Delaney at kdelaney@cfenet.ubc.ca or call Irene Day at 604-806-8202. We will be please to answer any of your questions related to this change.

Regards,

Irene L. Day, RN, BN, MBA
Director of Operations
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

Attachment: 1