

ISDH Long Term Care
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Two of our major health care problems include access to cancer treatment and HIV testing. In today's edition of the ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter, I am providing information on a couple of programs related to these issues.

State Urges Eligible Hoosier Women To Take Advantage Of Free Cancer Treatments

INDIANAPOLIS---State health officials are urging eligible women to apply for the state's program offering access to free treatment for breast or cervical cancer. In 2007, there were 3,892 women diagnosed with breast cancer and 236 diagnosed with cervical cancer in Indiana.

To qualify for this program, women must:

- Need treatment for breast or cervical cancer;
- Reside in Indiana;
- Be under the age of 65;
- Have a family income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and
- Have no credible health insurance.

"Women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer are already facing an incredible challenging time for them and their families," said Erin Triplett, director of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program at the Indiana State Department of Health. "The last thing we want them to have to worry about during this difficult time is if they can afford to be treated."

The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation in 2009 that extended Medicaid coverage to eligible women aged 18 to 64 who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. Since the law went into effect on July 1, 2009, the program has helped 73 women receive treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

Women who believe they may be eligible are encouraged to apply for the program by calling the Indiana Family Helpline at 1-800-433-0746.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Program also receives both federal and state funds to help uninsured and underinsured women aged 40 to 64 gain access to screening services for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer. For more information on cancer screenings, visit www.in.gov/isdh/19851.htm or call 1-800-433-0746.

"Regular screening examinations by a health care professional can result in the detection and removal of precancerous growths, as well as the diagnosis of cancers at an early stage, when they are most treatable," said Triplett. "Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for at least half of all new cancer cases."

Hoosiers Urged To Get Tested For HIV

INDIANAPOLIS—Sunday, June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, and state health officials are taking the opportunity to remind Hoosiers of the importance of getting tested for HIV, especially for pregnant women. Information on testing sites around the state, including hours and types of tests, can be found by visiting www.hivtest.org.

In patients younger than 13 years of age, nearly all cases of HIV transmission occur from mother to baby during pregnancy and delivery. Very frequently, women are unaware of their status and their risk. With intervention during pregnancy, labor, and delivery, transmission from mother to baby can be decreased from 25 to 30 percent down to 1 to 2 percent.

The "One Test Two Lives" campaign encourages pregnant women to get tested for HIV. To learn more about this campaign, check out the public service announcement on the Indiana State Department of Health's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/IndianaHealth>.

Once a woman's HIV status is documented, oral medication can be started during pregnancy, continued through labor, and then given to the baby for 6 weeks. This will decrease the chances of passing HIV onto the baby—less than 2 percent chance of becoming infected. This approach has been verified in medical studies and has proven effective. Long term side effects on the fetus and children exposed to the medications have not been seen.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends all individuals ages 13 to 64 receive voluntary routine HIV counseling and testing. HIV counseling and testing allows people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and well-being, as well as that of their partners and families, and helps people who test negative get the information they need to stay uninfected.

"We really need to move toward including HIV testing as a routine part of an annual physical, like cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, mammograms, pap smears and prostate exams," said Andrea Perez, program manager, HIV Prevention Program, Indiana State Department of Health. "As with any disease, early detection is critical in long term maintenance and quality of life. That's why testing is so incredibly important."

According to Perez, Hoosiers are heeding the call for testing. In 2009, there were 31,828 HIV tests performed, the highest number of tests in the past three years. The number of positives identified was 190 in 2009, with a 5 year average of 204 positives found each year. This does not include the number of HIV tests performed by private health care providers.

Several agencies throughout Indiana have been doing tests during the month, including Wishard, which is planning to test 1,000 clients. Indiana 2009 new reports suggest there were 399 Hoosiers diagnosed with HIV, while 145 were diagnosed with AIDS. As of December 2009, the total number of persons living with HIV or AIDS in Indiana is 9,282.

"HIV and AIDS have been around us for several years and unfortunately it's not slowing down, particularly among women, youth, and minorities," said Perez. "African-American women are the fastest growing population of new HIV cases. They account for nearly half the reported cases among women in Indiana. It's important that all people, but especially women, understand the risks for becoming infected with HIV, and how to prevent it."

Perez says tests take just a few minutes and results are typically available in two weeks, although most sites have Rapid HIV Antibody testing available. Both confidential and anonymous tests are available. Information on testing sites around the state, including hours and types of tests, can be found by visiting www.hivtest.org.

National HIV Testing Day is an annual campaign coordinated by the National Association of People with AIDS. It was launched more than a decade ago to promote early detection. Its purpose is to encourage people of all ages to "Take the Test, Take Control." Early HIV diagnosis is important, so people who are infected can benefit from available life-saving treatments.

IU Offers Six Health IT Training Programs

The Indiana University School of Informatics and the Regenstrief Institute are partnering to train new health information technology professionals. The programs include five, one-year graduate training programs and a two-year master's program. Qualified applicants must hold four-year or advanced degrees. Targeted professionals include physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, administrators, information technology professionals, health researchers, and informaticians. To learn more about specific programs, go to www.informatics.iupui.edu.

The programs are designed for working professionals and many courses are accessible online. Tuition support is available for the most qualified applicants. Employers needing program promotional materials or an in-house presentation for staff, should contact IU at jofjones@iupui.edu.

FDA Warns About Fraudulent Tamiflu

FDA News Release

For Immediate Release: June 17, 2010

Media Inquiries: Elaine Gansz Bobo, 301-796-7567, elaine.bobo@fda.hhs.gov

Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

FDA Warns About Fraudulent Tamiflu

Fraudulent product is dangerous to patients allergic to penicillin

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today warned consumers about a potentially harmful product represented as "Generic Tamiflu" sold over the Internet. FDA tests revealed that the fraudulent product does not contain Tamiflu's active ingredient, oseltamivir, but cloxacillin, an ingredient in the same class of antibiotics as penicillin.

The agency reminds patients who are allergic to or may have experienced adverse reactions from penicillin products that they are at risk of experiencing similar reactions from cloxacillin. This includes a sudden, potentially life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis, with symptoms that include difficulty breathing, chest tightness, swelling of the throat or tongue, hives, dizziness, loss of consciousness, or a rapid or weak pulse. To date, the FDA is not aware of any reports of adverse reactions.

There is no FDA-approved generic drug for the prescription product Tamiflu.

The FDA bought the fraudulent "Generic Tamiflu" without a prescription from a website claiming to be an online drugstore that is no longer operational. The fraudulent version is likely to be found for sale on other websites, however.

"A rogue Internet website marketing drug products may look like a professional and legitimate website, but may actually be an illegal operation," said Commissioner of Food and Drugs Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. "Medicines purchased from websites operating outside the law put consumers at increased risk due to a higher potential that the products will be counterfeit, impure, contaminated, or have too little or too much of the active ingredient."

The FDA-purchased product arrived in an envelope postmarked from India, containing two foil-backed blister packages each with 15 yellow and tan capsules containing white powder (see photos below). The foil backing is printed, and labeled in part, "Oseltamivir Phosphate 75mg. Capsules TM-FLU Capsules" and "Manufactured by: TRYDRUGS Pharmaceuticals PVT. LTD."

Although the FDA actively monitors the Internet and when appropriate purchases and analyzes drug

products, consumers who purchase drugs using an online pharmacy can protect themselves by knowing how to recognize a legitimate Internet pharmacy and how to buy medicines safely online. Legitimate internet pharmacies are licensed by the appropriate U.S. Board of Pharmacy and follow the applicable laws and regulations.

Consumers can also be confident that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Verified Internet Pharmacy Sites Seal, also known as VIPPS Seal, gives a seal of approval to pharmacy sites that apply and meet state licensure requirements. Legitimate pharmacies that carry the VIPPS seal are listed at www.vipps.info

The FDA advises anyone possessing or encountering any of these fraudulent Tamiflu drugs not to use them and to contact the FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations by calling 800-551-3989, or by visiting the OCI website (<http://www.fda.gov/OCI>).

Health care professionals and consumers are encouraged to report adverse events that may be related to the use of these fraudulent products to the FDA's MedWatch Program by phone at 800-FDA-1088, by fax at 800-FDA-0178, or by mail at: MedWatch, HF-2, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787.

For more information:

- [Buying Prescription Medicine Online: A Consumer Safety Guide](#)
- [Consumer Update: FDA Sounds Alarm on Phony Tamiflu](#)

Coming Events

July 1 - September 30, 2010 (one-day trainings on select dates): ISDH Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Training, Indianapolis. To register for a session call the MDS clinical helpdesk at 317-233-4719 or email Gina Berkshire at: gberkshire@isdh.IN.gov.

August 9-11, 2010: Pioneer Network 10th National Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana. For conference information, go to www.pioneernetwork.org.

October 14, 2010: ISDH Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference, Caring for Alzheimer's and Dementia, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. Watch for information late this summer.

Indiana has experienced significant weather issues in the past couple of weeks. If you have not done so already, please notify the Division of Long Term Care if your facility or agency has experienced any weather-related issues.

With the high heat, stay cool and hydrated. Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
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Indiana State Department of Health