Dear Colleague:

The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS and STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Passport to Partner Services course. This course was designed in collaboration with the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC)-Partner Services and Program Support-Part III Centers. The Passport to Partner Services course is based on the “Recommendations for Partner Services Programs for HIV Infection, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydial Infection” (MMWR Recommendations and Reports, October 31, 2008/Vol. 57/no. RR-9), and harmonizes training for disease intervention specialists (DIS) and other partner services providers previously trained in the traditional Introduction to STD Intervention (ISTDI) and HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS) courses. Beginning April 1, 2013, Passport will replace both ISTDI and PCRS as the essential training for partner services providers offered by CDC and its training partners.

Partner services include a broad array of services to prevent and control HIV and other STDs that should be offered to persons with HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and/or chlamydial infections and their partners. Many persons at risk for these infections also are at risk for other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and viral hepatitis, as well as various other health conditions. Appropriate use of public health resources to identify infected persons, notify their partners of their possible exposures, and provide infected persons and their partners with a range of medical, preventive, and psychosocial services can lead to 1) diagnosis and treatment; 2) behavior change including reduced transmission risk; and 3) reduced STD/HIV incidence. The Passport to Partner Services course is intended to give STD/HIV partner service providers the knowledge and skills to effectively deliver partner services.

The Passport to Partner Services course includes both web-based self-study modules and a traditional classroom component. The curriculum is divided into four tracks, differentiated by job functions. Track A is directed towards medical and referring providers, providing an overview of partner services and support for referring patients to these services. Track B is geared primarily towards HIV partner service providers who conduct partner elicitation, notification, or referral. Track C is for partner service providers who are responsible for partner elicitation, notification or referral primarily for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and/or HIV, but not syphilis case management. The last track, Track D, is for partner service providers (especially DIS) that will be responsible for the full spectrum of partner services, including syphilis case management.
The Prevention Training Centers- Part III providers will be offering national classroom based trainings, following completion of the online modules. Training events can be found on the Training Events Calendar (https://wwwn.cdc.gov/GEMS/Pages/Main/Agreement.aspx), or on the NNPTC Training Calendar (http://nnptc.org/training-calendar/). We are excited to roll out this new training series and continue to work towards reaching partners of those who have been diagnosed with HIV and/or STDs.

Sincerely,

/Gail Bolan, MD/

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