

Recommendations for Including Best Practices of Social Service Needs in the Implementation of Perinatal Protocol

TRACK ONE:

This track assumes that the hospital and/or clinic where the mother (original client) will deliver her unborn child, has a social worker and/or case manager on staff. The hospital/clinic will certify that the social worker and/or case manager is informed and educated on these recommendations. The following is recommended:

- The social worker/case manager will speak with the original client prior to discharge regarding:
 - The social worker will acknowledge the client' HIV status and empathize with her potential needs respective to herself and to her new born child.
 - The social worker will ask medical personnel about the patient's understanding of her HIV diagnosis.
 - The social worker will confer with medical personnel (i.e., doctor/nurse, etc) the clients medical orders to ascertain the client' understanding of information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the client.
 - The social worker will provide specific information and education that the client must know before being discharged from the hospital.
 - The social worker will confirm all demographic information that includes home address, phone numbers, cell numbers, as well the client transportation needs, if any.
 - The social worker will assess whether the client has access to an infectious disease specialist; if not the social worker will make a referral*, if possible near the client's home.
 - If the newborn is confirmed positive, the social worker will ensure that the mother has appropriate medication needed for the newborn prior to discharge from the hospital. Or access, as well as financial means, to a pharmacy that has the required medications.
 - The social worker will make appropriate referral(s) to a pediatric specialist that the client can access.
 - The social worker will evaluate the client's emotional stability before attempting to retrieve specific information regarding partner elicitation. If the client seems relatively stable then the social worker will explain what partner elicitation is and why it is important. The social worker will document all the information regarding prospective partners with whom the client has engaged in at-risk behaviors with on the Partner Information Guide.
 - If the client is not emotionally stable and/or does not want to provide any information, then the social worker will advise and provide the client with written literature that the HDHHS (Houston Department of Health and Human Services) will be contacting her once she gets home to further discuss the partner elicitation and notification process.
 - The social worker will contact ICCR at (713) 794-9254 to report all partner elicitation information within 24-48 hours of receipt of information.

NOTE: It is vitally important that the social worker 1) fully assess any potential domestic violence issues and/or concerns that the client has directly and/or indirectly expressed or implied. 2) Explain to the client that neither he/she the health department can identify her as the person that has named any potential partner(s).

*Consultation with respective agencies regarding prospective referrals should be confirmed prior to client's departure. Appropriate follow-up should be initiated within 30 days, if not sooner, depending on circumstances or clients situation.

TRACK TWO:

This track assumes that the hospital and/or clinic does not have a social worker and/or case manager on staff. In those instances the following is recommended with that full understanding that some type of policy and/or procedure must be required and endorsed to ensure that the scope of these recommendations are implemented. The hospital/clinic must, confer these recommended responsibilities on personnel that has some level of psychosocial skill sets. Once that person(s) has been identified the following is recommended:

- The responsible person will speak with the original client prior to discharge regarding:
 - The responsible person will acknowledge the client' HIV status and empathize with her potential needs respective to herself and to her new born child.
 - The responsible person will confer with medical personnel (i.e., doctor/nurse, etc) the clients medical orders to ascertain the client' understanding of information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the client.
 - The responsible person will provide some specific information and education that the client must know before being discharged from the hospital.
 - The responsible person will confirm all demographic information that includes home address, phone numbers, cell numbers, etc. as well as client transportation needs, if any.
 - The responsible person will assess whether the client has access to an infectious disease specialist; if not the social worker will make a referral*, if possible near the client's home.
 - If the newborn is confirmed positive, the social worker will ensure that the mother has appropriate medication needed for the newborn prior to discharge from the hospital. Or access, as well as financial means, to a pharmacy that has the required medications.
 - The responsible person will make appropriate referral(s) to a pediatric specialist.
 - The responsible person will evaluate the client's emotional stability before attempting to retrieve specific information regarding partner elicitation. If the client seems relatively stable then the social worker will explain what partner elicitation is and why it is important. The responsible person will document all the information

regarding prospective partners with whom the client has engaged in at-risk behaviors with on the Partner Information Guide.

- If the client is not emotionally stable and/or does not want to provide any information, then the social worker will advise and provide the client with written literature that the DSHS (Department of State Health Services) will be contacting her once she gets home to further discuss the partner elicitation and notification process.
- The social worker will contact ICCR at (713) 794-9254 to report all partner elicitation information within 24-48 hours of receipt of information.

NOTE: It is vitally important that the responsible person 1) fully assess any potential domestic violence issues and/or concerns that the client has directly and/or indirectly expressed and/or implied. 2) Explain to the client that neither he/she the health department can identify her as the person that has named any potential partner(s).

*Consultation with respective agencies regarding prospective referrals should be confirmed prior to client's departure. Appropriate follow-up should be initiated within 30 days, if not sooner, depending on circumstances or clients situation.