



January 28, 2015

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) is a nationally representative, CDC-funded public health surveillance system that conducts interviews and medical record abstractions to assess the clinical and behavioral characteristics of HIV-infected adults in the United States. Since 2009, MMP has provided key data to guide public health action, including national indicators for the proportion of HIV-infected persons retained in care, receiving antiretroviral therapy, and virally suppressed. **I am writing to you to inform you of a significant change in MMP methods from facility-based participant selection to selection directly from surveillance registry data of HIV-diagnosed persons reported to your local health department.**

Because HIV-infected persons who are not receiving medical care are twice as likely to die and 25 times more likely to transmit HIV as those who are virally suppressed, MMP is changing its methods to collect information that is representative of all HIV-infected persons rather than just those who regularly attend clinics as recommended by the Institute of Medicine. Given that more than half of HIV-diagnosed persons are not retained in care, this new method will require MMP staff to actively locate and contact selected persons without solely relying on HIV facilities for assistance as has sometimes been done in the past.

**The change in MMP methods changes the relationship of the project with healthcare facilities.**

MMP staff will no longer ask facilities to provide lists of their patients for selection of potential participants, but support from healthcare facilities will continue to be important for the success of the project. For example, MMP staff may ask if your facility is willing to provide recent contact information for patients whose reported HIV-related test results suggest they have received care at your facility at some time in the past, and MMP staff may contact your facility to obtain access to medical records for abstraction.

As MMP changes in response to public health needs, the success of MMP becomes increasingly important for the success of local, state, and national HIV prevention. Thank you for continuing to support this vital public health activity.

Sincerely,

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