

SUBJECT: HIV Consent Form Elimination

SUBMITTED BY: Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

REFERRED TO: 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 30

- 1 WHEREAS, in 1981 a medical syndrome was discovered in the United States with impaired
2 immune individuals showing symptoms of Pneumocystis carinii and Kaposi's Sarcoma
3 and in 1982 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) named the syndrome Acquired
4 Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS),
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- 6 WHEREAS, in 1983 the virus that caused AIDS was discovered and in 1986 was named Human
7 Immunodeficiency Virus,
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- 9 WHEREAS, the first medication was developed in 1987 and multiple medications have
10 developed since with great success. The morbidity and mortality rates have declined
11 with the advent of early diagnosis and medication usage. The mortality rate is
12 extremely low in the United States as long as the individual with HIV takes daily
13 medication,
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- 15 WHEREAS, the stigma and prejudice of HIV in the 1980s and 1990s was high, federal and state
16 governments required the use of HIV consent forms for testing individuals. While this
17 may have been helpful with a disease that had poor outcomes and a high mortality rate,
18 in 2016 the use of mandatory consent forms are now overbearing, time consuming, and
19 cost prohibitive. More HIV screenings would be performed without the consent forms,
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- 21 WHEREAS, in 2006 the CDC released their revised HIV testing recommendations in healthcare
22 settings, that; 1) all patients between 13-64 should have an HIV screening blood test, 2)
23 screening should be incorporated into the general consent for medical care; separate
24 written consent is not recommended, 3) prevention counseling should not be required
25 with HIV diagnostic testing or as part of HIV screening programs in Healthcare settings.
26
- 27 WHEREAS, there are no other diseases or disorders requiring consent forms or pre and post
28 test forms; i.e. gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, hepatitis, diabetes, factor 5
29 leiden, hemophilia, Helicobacter pylori, or hundreds of others; now, therefore be it
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- 31 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) support the
32 elimination of the requirement of physicians and healthcare settings to have consent
33 forms completed before an HIV test.
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- 35 RESOLVED, to be forwarded to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).