

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

COUNTY OF TULARE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH (HSB) and BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA and AFFILIATES (“Blue Cross”)

VI. HIV/AIDS PROGRAM (Confidential HIV Testing)

Final 2/4/03 (DHS Approval 10/03) Revised 11/16/05

CATEGORY	TULARE COUNTY HSB HIV/AIDS PROGRAM	BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA
A. LIAISON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible for appointing a HIV/AIDS Program Liaison to coordinate activities with Blue Cross and to notify HIV/AIDS Program staff of their roles and responsibilities. 2. HIV/AIDS Liaison and/or program staff will provide Blue Cross with an annual update of HIV/AIDS and confidential test sites, with updates as available. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a local Blue Cross Liaison to coordinate activities with HIV/AIDS Program. 2. Provider Training Staff will notify Blue Cross staff and providers of their HIV/AIDS responsibilities for members. 3. Blue Cross Liaison will provide the HIV/AIDS Program with an updated Provider Directory, at minimum on an annual basis, and with updates as available.
B. DATA COLLECTION & REPORTING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile all mandated surveillance and testing data related to HIV/AIDS Program. 2. Share HIV/AIDS aggregate data for the county with Blue Cross, as requested. 3. Work with BCC to collect and report appropriate data in accordance with state requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provider Training Staff, Blue Cross Liaison and CRC Staff will instruct providers and laboratories to follow local HSB HIV and AIDS reporting requirements. 2. Provide HSB with aggregate data on number of identified Blue Cross members in Tulare County with HIV/AIDS related diagnosis, upon request.
C. HEALTH EDUCATION (Testing and Counseling)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education will be provided about the prevention, spread and living with HIV/AIDS to the community using the following methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases in local newspapers will give information relative to availability of confidential testing and counseling services, as well as hours, • Poster-type advertisements for specific AIDS services and confidential HIV testing services are available to Blue Cross Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) upon request from HSB - HIV/AIDS Program, • Information, counseling and education services are provided for each person requesting services, at all HSB testing sites, (no charge to the member). 2. A regional resource guide (San Joaquin Valley Regional Consortium Resource Guide) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue Cross of California (BCC) will inform plan members through the Member Services Guide and newsletter about the availability of confidential HIV testing at various provider network sites and availability of confidential HIV testing at HSB sites. 2. BCC, through the community resource guide, health education flyers, member newsletter, and health education classes will provide general health education to members and opportunity for prevention education and confidential HIV testing. 3. Provider Training Staff, Blue Cross Liaison and Community Resource Center (CRC) Staff will instruct providers to inform clients of their rights of confidentiality in accordance with State of California confidentiality laws.

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	<p>is available from the HIV/AIDS Program upon request.</p> <p>3. HSB HIV/AIDS Program will collaborate and support Blue Cross training efforts to inform providers of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance requirements for Health and Safety Code, Section 125107; providers are to offer counseling and testing to all pregnant members, • Compliance with Department of Health Services (DHS), Medi-Cal Managed Care Policy Letter No. 97-08; offer counseling to parents (legal guardians) and testing to all infants, children and adolescents as defined in the policy letter. Services to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) HIV/AIDS information, (b) Counseling that minimally includes modes of transmission, risk reduction, behavior modification, methods to reduce the risk of perinatal transmission, and referral to other HIV/AIDS prevention and psychological services, (c) Referral for testing as requested, (d) Offer treatment and/or referral for treatment to all BCC members who test HIV positive. 	<p>4. Blue Cross will coordinate all education, counseling, testing and prevention services with the HSB for Blue Cross PCPs to ensure those services are available to members.</p> <p>5. Blue Cross Provider Training Staff, BCC Liaison and CRC Staff will collaborate with HSB HIV/AIDS Program to inform providers of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance requirements for Health and Safety Code, Section 125107; providers are to offer counseling and testing to all pregnant members, • Compliance with Department of Health Services (DHS), Medi-Cal Managed Care Policy Letter No. 97-08; offer counseling to parents (legal guardians) and testing to all infants, children and adolescents as defined in the policy letter. Services to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) HIV/AIDS information, (b) Counseling that minimally includes modes of transmission, risk reduction, behavior modification, methods to reduce the risk of perinatal transmission, and referral to other HIV/AIDS prevention and psychological services, (c) Referral for testing as requested, (d) Offer treatment and/or referral for treatment to all BCC members who test HIV positive.
D. CASE MANAGEMENT	<p>1. Confidential testing and counseling protocols are in place and available at each test site.</p> <p>2. A copy of protocols will be made available to Blue Cross of California providers upon request.</p> <p>3. HSB test site will obtain written authorization from client regarding to whom test results should be forwarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSB will train test site staff regarding patient completion of written authorization for release of test results. • Only specific medical information regarding diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care will be released to ensure continuity and quality of care, • Results of test will be forwarded to provider under strict adherence to confidentiality regulations. 	<p>1. Provider Training Staff, Blue Cross Liaison and CRC Staff will instruct providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and refer members for client centered risk reduction assessment, disclosure counseling and HIV testing services in accordance with State laws, • Inform members of the need to sign a release of information in order for their PCP to receive information regarding test results, • Written authorization must be obtained from a member prior to each separate disclosure of an HIV test result • Inform members about partner notification activities conducted by the local DPH, • Inform members about the importance of partner notification and obtain consent • Refer members to appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention and health education services program,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up with members to offer assistance with referrals; document intervention and outcome on medical record. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Cross Utilization Management Case Managers (Camarillo), Blue Cross Liaison and CRC Staff will assist PCPs with HIV infected members to access the appropriate scope and level of care and services through the local AIDS providers. Members who test positive for HIV will be encouraged to enroll as early as possible in the HSB Early Intervention Program (EIP), or another local HIV/AIDS case management program. (Referral is initiated by telephone contact with the program at HSB).
E. PROVIDER TRAINING AND EDUCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HSB HIV/AIDS Program staff will coordinate with Blue Cross to provide education prevention services to all Blue Cross PCPs including the latest information about HIV & AIDS from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as diagnosis, treatment information and confidentiality of medical records. Collaborate with Blue Cross to offer inservice training and additional classes as indicated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provider Training Staff, Blue Cross Liaison and CRC staff will offer provider education in coordination with the HSB regarding HIV testing information, education and referral responsibilities and confidentiality of medical records. Additional inservice training will be requested and coordinated with the HSB as needed and appropriate. Blue Cross Liaison will facilitate notification to Blue Cross providers regarding HSB educational opportunities.
F. QUALITY ASSURANCE IMPROVEMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HSB will maintain standards of care as published by the National Institute of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS for Blue Cross members receiving care through a HSB facility. Treatment protocols are in place and available for all high-risk participants related to direct and indirect care. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Cross PCPs may request information from HSB regarding a member who has tested negative or positive for the HIV virus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before any information is released from the HSB to Blue Cross, a consent form from the HIV-positive member must be signed, in accordance with the California Health & Safety Code 199.21, et. Al. Medical information, such as lab reports, medications, physician referrals, viral loads and T-cell counts may be released to Blue Cross with a properly signed release of information consent from the member. Provider Training Staff, Blue Cross Liaison, and CRC staff will collaborate with HSB HIV/AIDS Program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide periodic updates,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote continuity of care for infected patients, including all preventive health care, • Support and promote PCP and Specialist adherence to NIH and CDC standards. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. During facility review of provider office, Clinical Quality Auditor (CQA) will review medical record for compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting positive AIDS cases, verification of reporting-Confidential Morbidity Report form, copy in record • NIH and CDC recommendations for counseling, testing, referral, health care and confidentiality of test results. 4. BCC Utilization Management Case Managers will assist providers and members with referrals to community resources.
G. MOU/AGREEMENT MONITORING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule quarterly meetings with Blue Cross Liaison to monitor this MOU. 2. Conduct an annual review, update and/or negotiation of this agreement, as is mutually agreed. 3. Provide 60 days notice to Blue Cross should HSB - HIV/AIDS Program decide to modify this agreement. [Unless mandated by Department of Health Service directives, State mandated requirements or Federal guidelines] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Blue Cross Liaison will meet with the HIV/AIDS Liaison to monitor this agreement quarterly and/or upon request. 2. Local Blue Cross Liaison will conduct an annual review, update, and/or negotiation of this agreement, as is mutually agreed. 3. Local Program/Regional Manager will provide 60 days notice to the HSB – HIV/AIDS Program should Blue Cross decide to modify this agreement.

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H. REIMBURSEMENT & BILLING	1. Make every effort to provide Blue Cross with the information required for reimbursement while maintaining patient confidentiality. HHSA will encourage Blue Cross enrollees to agree to release their medical records to Blue Cross.	1. Reimburse HHSA at BCC negotiated rates for medically necessary and appropriate HIV related services as agreed up in the Service Agreement with Tulare County Health and Human Services.

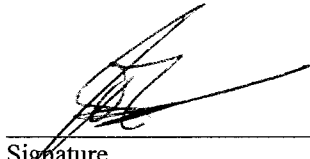
FOR BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA
STATE SPONSORED BUSINESS

FOR TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY


Signature

Linda Pollnow, Vice President and General Manager
State Sponsored Business

Date: 12-18-06


Signature

John Davis, Director
Tulare Health and Human Services Agency

Date: 8/28/06

FOR COUNTY OF TULARE
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Signature

Allen Ishida, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
COUNTY COUNSEL**

By 
Deputy