



## County of Sacramento

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### **Advisory on Senate Bill 1152: Hospital Discharge Guidelines for Patients Experiencing Homelessness - UPDATE**

July 29, 2019

Senate Bill (SB) 1152 went into effect January 1, 2019 and commences July 1, 2019. SB1152 updates California Health and Safety code 1262.5 requiring general acute care hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals and special hospitals to offer the following to patients experiencing homelessness prior to discharge:

- Screening or referrals “for infectious diseases common to the region, as determined by the local health department”.
- Immunizations appropriate to their “presenting medical condition”.

This advisory provides guidance to hospitals within the local health jurisdiction of Sacramento County to comply with HSC 1262.5. The guidance is based on local and state infectious disease epidemiology and national guidance on screening and immunizations for infectious diseases.

- Sacramento County as well as the State of California and nationwide is experiencing increased rates of syphilis, including congenital syphilis. In 2018, Sacramento County had a total of 10 probable congenital syphilis cases. As of July 2019, there are already 8 probable cases. **The County Public Health Officer is therefore requiring 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester screening in pregnant women. This health officer order will allow reimbursement for testing and treatment from Health Plans.**
- Up to seven percent of homeless population in high morbidity jurisdictions in California tested positive for latent tuberculosis (TB) infections. Sacramento County ranks in the top 10 counties in California for the number of TB cases. Sacramento also experienced a TB outbreak among the homeless in 2017-2018.
- Hepatitis A outbreaks have affected homeless populations in California and nationwide despite the availability of an effective vaccine. Outbreaks can spread rapidly within and beyond encampments.

*See next page for recommendations.*

*See attachment for referral form.*

**Prior to discharging patients experiencing homelessness from hospital inpatient admissions and emergency departments, hospitals are recommended to:**

1. **Perform** rapid syphilis testing and provide presumptive treatment to symptomatic and pregnant patients. If testing is not available, refer patients to Sacramento County Sexual Health Clinic, 4600 Broadway, suite 1300; phone: (916) 875-1551; fax: (916) 854-9615.
2. **Provide** hepatitis A and influenza vaccination to homeless patients according to federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP guidelines). If vaccine is not available, refer patients to Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Clinic; phone: (916) 875-SHOT (7468); fax: (916) 854-9611.
3. **Perform** risk-based TB testing, including the California TB Risk Assessment, for any person who has stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year or who is being discharged to a homeless shelter or congregate setting. If unable to perform testing, refer patients to Mercy Clinic Loaves and Fishes, 1321 N St, Suite 22; phone: (916) 874-2811; fax: (916) 854-8840.
4. **Offer** screening tests for HIV, hepatitis C, gonorrhea, and chlamydia. If testing is not available, refer patients to Sacramento County Sexual Health Clinic at 4600 Broadway, Suite 1300; phone: (916) 875-1551; fax: (916) 854-9615.

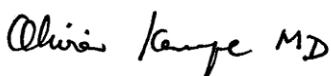
Resources:

- California Department of Public Health Resources on congenital syphilis  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/CongenitalSyphilis.aspx>
- California Health and Safety Code Section 1262.5  
<https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/selectFromMultiples.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=1262.5>
- Preventive care grade A and B screening recommendations (USPSTF)  
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations/>
- Complete adult immunization recommendations (ACIP)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html>
- Tuberculosis (TB) Signs & Symptoms (CDC)  
[www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/signsandsymptoms.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/signsandsymptoms.htm)

If you need information on current recommendations or to report positive results, please call the following:

- Title 17 Reportable Diseases and Conditions: (916) 875-5881
- Tuberculosis - Sacramento County Chest Clinic: (916) 874-9823
- HIV/STD Surveillance Program: (916) 874-2738
- Immunization Assistance Program (IAP): (916) 875-SHOT (7468)

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS  
Public Health Officer