

**STANDARD OF ORGANIZATION OF HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT UNDER
THE STATE GUARANTEED FREE OF CHARGE MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES**

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This standard defines the relationships associated with the prevention and treatment of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (hereinafter referred to as “HIV/AIDS”) within the within the framework of the State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services.
2. Provision of free of charge HIV/AIDS services includes: mandatory HIV testing, healthcare workers-initiated HIV testing and counseling, client-initiated (voluntary) HIV testing and counseling, routine and sentinel HIV surveillance, HIV monitoring and evaluation, organization of patients follow-up, provision of antiretroviral treatment (hereinafter referred to as “ART”), provision of in-patient medical care and support to HIV/AIDS patients, post-exposure prophylaxis for health care workers, prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, psycho-social support for HIV/AIDS patients.

**II. STANDARD OF ORGANIZATION OF HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING UNDER
THE STATE GUARANTEED FREE OF CHARGE MEDICAL CARE AND
SERVICES**

3. HIV testing and counseling is provided in health care settings according to the HIV testing and counseling procedure, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
4. Health care settings providing HIV testing and counseling organize HIV testing or storage of collected blood samples and their transportation to HIV testing laboratories.
5. Healthcare workers-initiated HIV testing and counseling is provided to the clients presented with clinical symptoms, representatives of key populations at higher risk of HIV infection (persons who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers), representatives of vulnerable populations (prisoners, migrants and their partners), pregnant women, and client-initiated HIV testing and counseling is provided to all individuals seeking for HIV testing and counseling, according to the HIV testing and counseling procedure, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
6. HIV testing and counseling in criminal-executive institutions is provided according to the procedure of provision by health care workers pre- and post- counseling and testing for HIV to prisoners and convicts, approved by the Decree N 733-N of 10 July 2013 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

7. Methodological management of HIV testing and counseling activities is carried out by the National Center for AIDS Prevention State Non-Profit Organization (hereinafter referred to as “NCAP”).

III. ORGANIZATION OF FREE OF CHARGE FOLLOW-UP (CONTINUOUS) OF HIV/AIDS PATIENTS AND THEIR ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT UNDER THE STATE GUARANTEED FREE OF CHARGE MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES

8. HIV/AIDS patients follow-up (continuous) is conducted in accordance with the National HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Protocols, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
9. HIV/AIDS patients follow-up (continuous) is conducted:
 - 1) In Yerevan - by NCAP physician (total amount of laboratory tests),
 - 2) Infection disease doctor or physician-substitute of the ambulatory-polyclinic medical care setting located in or near to the places of residence of the patients from marzes (adjusted amount of laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations). In this case a physician, conducting follow-up, may refer patient to NCAP for doctor’s advice and undergoing additional tests,
 - 3) Follow-up of the patients residing in Marzes, according to their wish, may be conducted by a NCAP physician (total amount of laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations).
10. Patients who are under the follow-up (continuous) at NCAP, if needed, may apply, on an off-schedule basis, to infection disease doctor or physician-substitute of ambulatory-polyclinic medical care setting located in or near to the places of their residence, who performs common clinical and laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations, indicates relevant treatment (if diseases associated with HIV are revealed), and undertakes relevant measures (if ARV side effects occur), in accordance with the National HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Protocols, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
11. Follow-up (continuous) of HIV patients in criminal-executive institutions (hereinafter referred to as “CEIs”) - including common clinical and laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations, diagnostic and treatment of HIV-associated diseases, provision of ARV drugs, undertaking relevant measures, should ARV side effects occur - is conducted by CEI physicians. Immunological and virological tests of the referred blood samples collected from HIV patients at CEIs, are performed at NCAP. On regular basis and in case of necessity NCAP specialists provide advice to CEIs physicians on the issues of HIV/AIDS patients management.
12. Clinical and laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations, and consultations of narrow profiled specialists are performed to evaluate stage of HIV infection, to diagnose HIV-associated and opportunistic diseases, to conduct primary prevention of opportunistic infections, to make decision on the necessity to initiate ART, to implement treatment monitoring, and to reveal ARV drugs side effects, according to the National Protocol on Antiretroviral Treatment and Management for Adults with HIV, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.

13. Free of charge ART is provided to all eligible for treatment HIV/AIDS patients who gave their informed consent upon being provided with relevant information on ART. ART is provided based on the consent of a guardian to the patients recognized as disabled, and based on the consent of parents or legal representative - to children (according to the National Protocol on Antiretroviral Treatment and Management for Adults with HIV, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia).
14. Patients with TB/HIV coinfection are provided with ART according to the National Protocol on Management of TB/HIV Coinfection, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
15. Patients with HIV/Hepatitis B, and HIV/Hepatitis C coinfections are provided with ART according to the National Protocol on Management of Hepatitis B and HIV Coinfection, and National Protocol on Management of Hepatitis C and HIV Coinfection approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
16. HIV/AIDS patients - persons who inject drugs are provided with ART based on the National Protocol on Antiretroviral Treatment and Management for Adults with HIV, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
17. Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission is implemented according to the National Protocol on Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
18. Post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection is provided according to the National Protocol on Post-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Infection, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
19. Free of charge medical support and services are provided at NCAP in accordance with the strategies of the National Programme on the Response to the HIV Epidemic and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1091-N dated 11 July 2002.
20. State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services provided at the “National Center for AIDS Prevention” SNO includes the following:
 - 1) Detecting HIV 1/2 by ELISA, Rapid Tests and Reference methods, HIV counseling, epidemiological surveillance,
 - 2) HIV/AIDS patients follow-up (continuous), including ARV treatment, treatment monitoring, diagnostics of opportunistic infections and co-infections, STIs, TB, prevention and out-patient treatment of opportunistic diseases, provision of medical, psychosocial and legal counseling, organization and referral for narrow profiled medical care related to diseases associated with HIV infection,
 - 3) prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission,
 - 4) post-exposure prophylaxis.
21. Free of charge medical care and services provided at NCAP also includes:
 - 1) routine and sentinel HIV surveillance,
 - 2) monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme on the Response to the HIV Epidemic,
 - 3) provision of organizational and methodological support to health care settings operating in the country, on the issues of HIV testing and counseling, treatment, prevention, monitoring, evaluation, etc.,

- 4) Provision of medical consultancy to HIV/AIDS patients in the health care settings on the issues of their diagnostics and management,
- 5) Provision of technical assistance and methodological support to organizations implementing HIV prevention programmes.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF IN-PATIENT MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES TO HIV/AIDS PATIENTS UNDER THE STATE GUARANTEED FREE OF CHARGE MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES

22. In-patient medical care and services to HIV/AIDS patients are provided in accordance with the Standard of in-patient care and services provision within the State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
23. HIV/AIDS patients in need of intensive and specialized in-patient treatment because of pathological conditions and morbidities not caused by HIV, as well as those caused by HIV, are provided with medical care and services on common grounds in appropriate departments of diversified health care settings.

V. ORGANIZATION OF AND REPORTING ON LABORATORY AND INSTRUMENTAL EXAMINATIONS WITHIN THE STATE GUARANTEED BASIC BENEFIT PACKAGE

24. HIV detecting and confirmation tests, as well as laboratory and instrumental diagnostic examinations of HIV/AIDS patients are free of charge.
25. HIV tests are performed by health care settings having relevant licensing.
26. The process of HIV diagnostics is implemented in accordance with the Procedure of organization of operation of HIV immunological laboratories and ensuring their safety, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
27. HIV laboratory and instrumental examinations are implemented in accordance with the Procedure of organization of operation of HIV immunological laboratories and ensuring their safety, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
28. Laboratories performing laboratory and instrumental examinations submit reports on the performed examinations in accordance with reporting form N 88 “About results of testing for Human Immunodeficiency Virus”, approved by the Order of the Minister of Health of Armenia N16-N of 4 October 2012.

VI. HIV SURVEILLANCE SURVEYS

29. HIV surveillance surveys are conducted through the routine surveys and regularly implemented sentinel biological and behavioral surveys. The above-mentioned surveys are conducted in accordance with the “Epidemiological HIV surveillance National Protocol and

Operational manual”, approved by the appropriate Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.

VII. HIV/AIDS MONITORING AND EVALUATION

30. NCAP carries out current monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme on the Response to the HIV Epidemic in accordance with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the National Programme on the Response to the HIV Epidemic, approved by the Decree N 232-N of 07 March 2013 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia

VIII. PREVENTION OF HIV TRANSMISSION THROUGH DONATED BLOOD

31. Donated blood and blood components are tested for HIV under the State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services according to the Standard of procurement of donated blood collection and related services, organization of medical care and services on blood transfusion at the health care settings providing in-patient medical care and services within the framework of the State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services, approved by the appropriated Order of the Minister of Health of Armenia.

IX. PREVENTION OF HIV INFECTION SPREAD AND OF OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO HIV AT HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

32. Health care workers exposed to the risk of occupational transmission of HIV are provided with the post-exposure prophylaxis at NCAP according to the National Protocol on Post-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Infection, approved by the appropriated Order of the Minister of Health of Armenia.

X. ORGANIZATION OF ANATOMOPATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STATE GUARANTEED BASIC BENEFIT PACKAGE

33. Anatomopathological examinations of patients died from HIV/AIDS are organized according to the Directive on conducting autopsy examinations on bodies with suspect HIV or AIDS, as well as to the Standard on organizing anatomopathological examinations within the framework of the State guaranteed free of charge medical care and services.

XI. MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE RESPONSE TO THE HIV EPIDEMIC

34. Overall coordination of the activities envisaged by the National Programme on the Response to the HIV Epidemic is carried out by the Country Coordination Commission on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria issues (CCM) in the Republic of Armenia.
35. The activities implemented by the state and local authorities are coordinated by their relevant structural units and responsible persons.

XII. FINANCING OF HIV/AIDS SERVICE

36. Provided HIV/AIDS service is financed according to the Law on the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, adopted each year.
37. Health care settings are financed as the reimbursement for provided services according to normatives and averaged cost of the State guaranteed free of charge in- and out-patient medical care and services provision to current year population, approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia, as per Agreements concluded between Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and health care settings.