

Sentinel Hospital Surveillance System Eligibility Criteria

All patients are eligible except those with the following or synonymous conditions reported as the principal reason for hospital visit:

1. All conditions frequently associated with AIDS or with HIV infection, including but not limited to: AIDS, ARC, lymphadenopathy, immune disorder, *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP), toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus retinitis, Kaposi's sarcoma, mycobacteriosis (including tuberculosis), herpes zoster, cryptococcal meningitis.

2. Fever, sepsis, suspected sepsis, fever of unknown origin, suspect bone or joint infection, endocarditis, or other systemic febrile illnesses of uncertain etiology.

3. Pneumonia and other acute lower respiratory tract disease, including diagnoses of: PCP, pneumonitis, cough, hemoptysis, bronchitis, respiratory syncytial virus, and so forth. However, asthma, allergic lung disease, and chronic obstructive or restrictive lung disease are not excluded.

4. Diarrhea, chronic diarrhea, *Salmonella* infection, cryptosporidiosis, weight loss, wasting, failure to thrive, and any other acute lower gastrointestinal illness or nutritional complaint often associated with HIV infection.

5. Thrush, *Candida* infection, esophagitis, dysphagia, difficulty swallowing.

6. Drug overdose in patients 13 years of age or older, drug addiction, superficial phlebitis, skin abscess, cellulitis. Alco-

holism and conditions commonly associated with alcohol abuse, including detoxification, any type of hepatitis or liver disease, cirrhosis, ascites, gastrointestinal bleeding, pancreatitis, pancreatotomy, gastritis, gastrectomy.

7. Gunshot or stab wound.

8. Suicide attempt, psychiatric conditions in persons 18 years or older, headache, dementia, encephalopathy, encephalitis, meningitis, brain abscess, or any mental status change (including vague neurologic complaints like "weakness" or "dizziness") except that resulting from head trauma.

9. Any cancer, mass, biopsy, or unspecified pain or pain control. However, patients with chest, back, flank, abdominal, or extremity pain are not excluded. Also, benign prostatic hypertrophy and uterine myomas are not excluded.

10. Bleeding disorder, hemophilia, thrombocytopenia.

11. Any skin disease or rash; any sexually transmitted disease or other genital infection, including pelvic inflammatory disease and prostatitis.

12. Organ transplant or rejection; renal dialysis.

NOTE: These eligibility criteria are applied in close consultation with the Principal Investigator, who in turn remains in close consultation with the Study Director at CDC to resolve questions about eligibility.

1. AIDS or other medical conditions commonly associated with AIDS or with HIV infection.

2. Conditions that might presumptively be expected to occur more frequently among HIV-infected persons, such as diarrhea, pneumonia, most infectious diseases, unexplained fever, neuropsychiatric conditions, and neoplasms.

3. Conditions often associated with medical risk factors (such as hemophilia) or behavioral risk factors (such as drug abuse or sexually transmitted diseases) for HIV infection.

4. Gunshot and knife wounds, conditions associated with lifestyle that have been reported in the past to be associated with higher than expected rates of HIV infection (11). A detailed description of the eligibility criteria is presented in the box on this page.

Prevention of multiple testing of specimens from the same patient. To prevent testing of specimens from the same patient within a calendar year, a file is maintained with an encrypted form of a patient identifier (such as a substring of a hospital medical record number). This file is not linked in any manner to the data file that contains test results; in addition, 10 percent of the encrypted records are for specimens that have not been tested (see subsequent discussion of Random Subsampling). Therefore, even if the identifiers could be recon-

Table 2. Mean and median number of beds, admissions per year, and percentage of patients insured by Medicaid, sentinel hospitals, and all acute care hospitals, in the United States

Characteristic	Sentinel hospitals		All U.S. hospitals ¹	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Number of beds.....	628	506	149	61
Admission per year.....	22,746	21,173	4,433	2,015
Percent of patients insured by Medicaid.....	24	15	10	10

¹Data from American Hospital Association Survey of U.S. Hospitals, 1985.

stituted, the patient associated with a test result could not be determined.

Sample size and stratification. The monthly sentinel hospital sample includes 300 specimens from six age groups: 0-4 years, 40 specimens; 5-14 years, 36 specimens; 15-24 years, 50 specimens; 25-44 years, 100 specimens; 45-64 years, 50 specimens; 65 years or older, 24 specimens. The sample for each age group is divided equally between males and females. Because of this stratified sampling procedure, the monthly sentinel hospital sample of 300 specimens is evenly divided by sex, and the age distribution of the sample is closer to