

Form Approved
OMB No. 0920-new
Exp Date: xx/xx/xxxx

Needle Exchange Utilization Survey (NEXUS)

Attachment 7a

Model Consent (English)

Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Reports Clearance Officer; 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; Attn: OMB-PRA (0920-new)

Project NEXUS

Participant Model Consent Form

English Version; Grade Reading Level by Flesch-Kincaid Method: 7.6

The [insert SSP Name] and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invite you to be part of a project about HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and other important health topics in your community.

A. Why we are doing this project

The purpose of this project is to learn about risk for HIV and HCV. We will use this information to plan better HIV and HCV prevention and treatment programs for people in your community. **This project is private, which means that I will not ask for your name, and no one will be able to identify you.** Taking part in this project is up to you. You don't have to be in the project if you don't want to be and you can stop at any time.

B. What will happen

If you choose to be in this project, this is what will happen:

1. You will interview with a trained staff member remotely through a secure, private video call. This call will not be recorded.

The interview has questions about your health, drug use, sex practices, and use of prevention services. It will take about 30 minutes. At the end of the interview, I may offer you a chance to invite other people to this project.

2. We will offer you free rapid HIV and point-of-care HCV testing [if offered]. You will not get medical treatment in this project. We can provide resources and referrals if needed.

HIV and HCV Testing [if offered]

If you agree to the HIV or HCV testing [if offered], this is what will happen:

For HIV testing, we will stick the tip of one of your fingers to obtain a few drops of blood. If the first test is positive, we'll do a second rapid test to confirm your results. You can get the results of your HIV test within [maximum time for specific tests used].

[If offered] For HCV testing, we will perform a point-of-care HCV RNA test at the same time as the finger stick for your rapid HIV test. You can get the results of your point-of-care HCV RNA test within [maximum time for specific tests used].

You will get a 10–15-minute counseling session on what your test results mean. You will get referrals to services, as needed. Even if you already know that you have HIV or HCV [if offered], we would still like to offer you the tests today so that we can link today's test results with your interview responses.

Linkage

We will link your test results with your interview responses using an ID number assigned to you for this project. No one besides you will be told your test results, and neither your test results nor your interview responses will be placed in any medical record.

C. Privacy

All information you give us will be private and confidential as much as the law allows. **Remember that we will not ask for your name or any other identifying information.** Your responses and test results will be labeled with an ID number only. Your participation in the survey and testing will affect your receipt of services.

The project staff at *[insert contractor]* and CDC will have access to the interview and testing data but not your name or other identifying information. Other collaborators will have access to the interview and testing data but will not be allowed to see any information that could identify you. Your responses will be grouped with interview answers from other persons.

D. Token of appreciation

You will get \$40 for completing the interview and \$15 if you take the HIV test. For HCV testing *[if offered]*, you will get an additional \$15. You may also get \$10 each for up to 5 people whom you send to us for the project.

To get your referral payments, we will create a code based on information that only you can give us. We may also ask you to create a security question and answer to make sure the right person receives the referral payments.

E. Things to consider

1. There are no costs to you to participate.
2. Some of the questions are very personal and may make you feel uncomfortable. Remember you don't need to answer any questions that you don't want to.
3. The fingerstick may cause temporary discomfort, bruising, bleeding, light-headedness, and local infection.
4. You may feel uncomfortable finding out you might have been infected with HIV *[if offered]* or HCV.
5. If your HIV or *[if offered]* HCV test results are negative, there is a slight chance that the results are wrong and that you could still be infected.
6. You may leave the project at any time. There are no penalties or loss of benefits if you choose not to take part or to leave the project early.

F. Persons to Contact

This project is run at *[insert SSP name]*, Tel.: *[insert SSP phone number]*. You may call *[insert SSP contact person]* with any questions about being in the project.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant, contact *[insert name, position, and phone number]*.

If you want one, you will get a copy of this form to keep.

G. Agreement

Do you have any questions?

INTERVIEWER: Answer the participant's questions before proceeding to the next question.

You have been given an explanation of this project, a copy of this form, the opportunity to discuss any questions that you might have, and the right to refuse participation. I am now going to ask for your consent to participate in this project.

Do you agree to take part in the interview?

If yes:

Do you agree to HIV testing?

Do you agree to HCV testing [if offered]?