

## HIV TESTING INFORMATION STATEMENT & CONSENT FORM

Vermont law requires that this entire statement be read aloud to you. It contains important information about HIV testing and your rights under Vermont law. A copy of it will be given to you to keep.

The insurance company you are applying to for coverage may want to take a sample from you to be tested by a laboratory for the presence of antibodies to the HIV virus. This information may be used as part of its decision whether to sell you insurance coverage. The insurance company may request a sample of your blood, urine or oral fluids (OMT) in order to conduct the test. The insurance company will pay for this test.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). Presence of antibodies in the sample means that a person has been infected with the HIV virus. While a positive HIV antibody test result does not mean that you have AIDS, it does mean that you are at a seriously increased risk of developing AIDS. A negative test result means that no antibodies to the HIV virus were found. Because of varying incubation periods, absence of HIV antibodies does not guarantee that you have not been infected with the virus. In addition, the absence of HIV antibodies does not mean that you are immune to the virus.

If after listening to this statement you do not wish to be tested, do not sign the informed consent form and the application process will end. You may consult, at your expense, with a personal physician or counselor or the state health department before deciding whether to consent to this testing. In addition, you may obtain an anonymous test before deciding to consent to this testing (call the Vermont Aids Hotline for information about free testing, the number is listed below) and any delay will not affect the status of your application or policy.

You may choose to receive the test results directly or to designate in writing on the informed consent form any other person whom you want to receive the results.

All test results will be treated confidentially. The laboratory that conducts the test will report the results to the insurance company, which may in turn report results to its affiliates, reinsurers, medical personnel and insurance support organizations that are involved in the decision by the insurer to sell you insurance. Test results will not be shared with your insurance agent or broker. You have the right to sue a person for damages arising from the unauthorized negligent or knowing disclosure of HIV related test results.

If your test result is positive or indeterminate, the insurance company may report a nonspecific test code to the medical information bureau (MIB). The MIB is a central computerized facility that keeps on file the health information of the applicants for life and health insurance for use by insurance companies. In addition, positive test results must be reported to the Vermont Department of Health using a unique identifier code.

You have rights that include the following:

1. If a test is indeterminate, you may request in writing to be re-tested after six months, but not later than eight months. Pre-existing insurance will not be affected. If the new test is indeterminate or negative, a new application for coverage may not be denied based on either test, and any prior decision to grant a substandard classification or exclusion based on prior HIV-related test results will be reversed;
2. If the test result of urine or oral fluids is positive or indeterminate, the insurance company must provide you with the opportunity to retest once, within 30 days following receipt of those test results. You have the option of choosing a blood, urine or oral sample for that retest.

3. If you are denied insurance because of a positive test result, you may request a retest once within the three-year period following the date of the most recent test or if an alternative test has been approved for use by the Vermont Insurance Commissioner. If such retest is negative, an insurer may not deny coverage based upon the initial test results.

It is very important to seek counseling in the event you test positive for HIV antibodies. You can obtain helpful information from the Vermont AIDS Hotline at (800) 882-2437 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at (800) 342-2437.

You will now be asked to sign a written informed consent form permitting the insurance company to have you tested for HIV antibodies.

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***Informed Consent***

To be signed at the time when medical professional or company agent obtains sample.

This statement has been read aloud to me and I understand this ***HIV TESTING INFORMATION STATEMENT & CONSENT FORM.*** I voluntarily consent to the collection of blood, urine or OMT samples for the purpose of testing to determine if HIV antibodies are present and the disclosure of the test results as described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Proposed Insured

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Proposed Insured

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Birth date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Residence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Medical Professional or Company Agent  
Collecting Sample

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Medical Professional or Company Agent

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***Notification of Test Results***

To be completed at time of application or when a Medical Professional or company agent obtains sample.

You may choose to receive the test results directly or to designate below another person to whom the results should be sent:

PLEASE SEND MY TEST RESULTS TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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