

# HIV Surveillance in Ireland - A Summary

## HIV is a notifiable disease in Ireland

HIV became a notifiable disease in Ireland in September 2011. As a consequence, all clinicians and clinical directors of laboratories have a statutory obligation to notify all new diagnoses of HIV. More information on notifiable diseases can be found at <http://www.hpsc.ie/NotifiableDiseases/>.

## Case definition/Confirmatory testing for HIV

In Ireland, the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) undertakes all HIV confirmatory testing. Since January 2015 (for HSE East) and January 2016 (for all other HSE areas) NVRL notify new diagnoses of HIV based on confirmatory testing on a single sample (previously two separate samples were required) and then notify to public health (if not previously reported in Ireland). More information on case definitions can be found at <http://www.hpsc.ie/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/>.

## Notifying a new diagnosis of HIV

Once the NVRL confirm a new diagnosis, they enter relevant information into the *Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system*. CIDR is a confidential name-based surveillance system for managing infectious disease notifications in Ireland. CIDR has received ISO 27001 accreditation with Certification Europe for best practice in information security and system availability. More information on CIDR can be found at <http://www.hpsc.ie/CIDR/>.

Notifications of HIV are sent securely within CIDR to the Departments of Public Health. If the HIV test request received in the NVRL came from another laboratory, the notification is first sent back within CIDR to the referring laboratory. Once the test result is authorised for sharing with public health, the clinical director of the laboratory will have discharged their statutory obligation to notify.

The NVRL also send an enhanced surveillance form (ESF) to the clinician who requested the confirmatory HIV test, which is usually but not always an ID/GUM Physician. A copy of the ESF for HIV can be found at <http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/HIVSTIs/HIVandAIDS/SurveillanceDocuments/>. Completion of the form and providing it to public health for entry into CIDR enables the clinician to fulfill his/her statutory obligation to notify and no further action is required. When completing the enhanced surveillance form it is important to note that it will never seek to acquire patient identifiers. Patient identifiers are entered into CIDR where they can be protected. If available, NVRL provide additional data when notifying new diagnoses, e.g. risk group, viral load, timing of previous negative tests and other relevant information.

## Paediatric HIV infections

All HIV-exposed infants are referred to the Rainbow Clinic at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. Once a new paediatric HIV diagnosis has been confirmed by the clinic, it is notified directly by the Rainbow Clinic to the relevant Department of Public Health. Paediatric infections are not notified to CIDR by NVRL.

## AIDS

AIDS is not a notifiable disease in Ireland but it is important that a stage of infection is reported on the HIV surveillance form for all new HIV diagnoses. From January 2012 onwards, only AIDS defining illnesses that occur at the time of HIV diagnosis have been recorded and included in HPSC reports.