PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
P.O. Box 830619
Birmingham, AL 35283-0619

INFORMED CONSENT FOR THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) ANTIBODY TEST

If you want to be tested to see if you have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, please read the following and ask for an oral explanation of anything that you do not understand.

Purpose of Test: This test shows if you have antibodies to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS; if there are antibodies, you have been infected with HIV and can pass the virus on to others. This test cannot determine if you have AIDS.

Blood Drawing: This HIV antibody test is a blood and/or a urine test. A sample of blood and/or urine will be collected from you and then analyzed by a laboratory to determine if it contains HIV antibodies.

Limitations: As with many laboratory tests, there is a possibility of inaccurate results. For instance, a false negative result could occur if you have recently been exposed to the virus but have not yet developed antibodies.

Potential Uses of Test: If your HIV antibody test results are known, it may help your doctor determine the medical care you need. It may also help you make personal decisions, such as whether to have children and how best to avoid the risk behaviors that transmit the virus. Your results are reported to the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES), but only positives or negatives; no name is attached. If testing for insurance, refer to insurance company testing section.

Counseling: At a minimum, counseling in the form of written materials developed by the DHES must be given to you before you consent to have the HIV antibody test performed and additional written materials from DHES must be provided to you after you receive the test results from your health care provider or designee.

Voluntary and Anonymous Testing: Taking an HIV antibody test is voluntary; you do not have to take the test. If you prefer, anonymous testing in which your name is not known to those performing the test, is available at several locations established by the DHES in Montana. These locations can be obtained from the DHES, your local health department or calling 1-800-233-6668. (Refer to insurance section.)

Withdrawal of Consent: You may withdraw your consent from the HIV test at any time until the blood and/or urine lab specimen is collected.

Confidentiality: Your test result is a confidential medical record and is protected by Montana law, which states that medical information can be released only with your consent, or under conditions specified by the Uniform Health Care Act (Title 50, Chapter 16, Part 5, MCA) or by the Government Health Care Act (Title 50, Chapter 16, Part 6, MCA). When authorizing a health care provider to release information you may specify which part of your medical records you want released and to whom. Signing a medical information release consent form does not waive your legal rights.

Local Health Department and Insurance Company Testing: If the test is being performed as part of an application for insurance, results will be reported to the health care provider designated by you, if it is positive. A negative test may be obtained from your insurance company. (If there is no health care provider designated, a positive test result may be reported to the local health department for post-test counseling.) A positive test result may have an effect on your ability to obtain insurance. Ask your insurance representative about who receives and has access to your HIV antibody test results.

Unconscious or Otherwise Mentally Incapacitated: If the patient is 1) unconscious or otherwise mentally incapacitated, 2) there is no legal guardian, 3) there are medical indications of an HIV-related condition, 4) the test is advisable in order to determine the proper course of treatment then the patient's next of kin (parent, adult child, grandparent, adult sibling, or legal spouse); or the patient's significant other (individual living in a current spousal relationship with another individual but who is not legally a spouse of that individual) may receive pretest counseling and provide written informed consent. If circumstances in 1-4 above exist and the patient is in a hospital, then the person designated in the patient's medical records may receive pretest counseling and provide written informed consent on behalf of the patient. If circumstances in 1-4 above exist and the patient is in a hospital, and none of the persons listed above are available; the health care faculty may within a reasonable time order a HIV test.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT: By signing below, I certify that:

(1) I have read and understand the above explanation of the HIV antibody test, including an explanation of the nature of the test, what the test results mean, counseling requirements, the test is voluntary and test results are confidential;

(2) I have received and read written pre-test counseling materials drafted by the DHES;

(3) I understand that anonymous testing, if I desire it, is available at one of the counseling/testing sites established by the DHES or elsewhere;

(4) I agree to have a sample of my blood or urine tested for the presence of the HIV antibody, and authorize

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Address: _____

_____

to receive and inform me of the results of the test. Post-test counseling is to be given, at minimum in the form of written materials developed by the DHES.

(5) I understand that when tested for insurance purposes that a positive test result will be given to the designated health care provider (listed above). If desired, I can seek results of a negative test from the insurance company.

(6) I authorize Protective Life Insurance Company or its reinsurers to make a brief report of any personal health information to the MIB.

_____
Date

_____
Signature of person to be tested or that subject's representative (as defined under section "Unconscious or Otherwise Mentally Incapacitated"). Initials or other identifier if testing anonymously.

_____
Print Name of Signatory