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## Health-Care Workers with HIV

A resolution adopted at the 1991 OPHA Annual General Meeting

**Code:** 1991-03 (RES)      **Status:** Archived

**WHEREAS** OPHA has a policy establishing the principle that testing should be voluntary with quality pre and post test counselling;

**WHEREAS** this single tragic situation in Florida does not tell us if transmission could have happened if the dentist had been using proper technique;

**WHEREAS** calls for testing of health-care workers have moved quickly to calls for testing of patients. (Some CMA members at their AGM, August 1991);

**WHEREAS** the costs of systemic testing of health-care workers and patients - financial, human resources, counselling resources, infringement upon privacy and choice, the promotion of an environment of fear - all outweigh the risk to either worker or patient.

**WHEREAS** the Human Rights Code contains the balance in rights that people can work as long as they can do the job safely and

**WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of professional groups to set standards and regulate their professions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** OPHA call upon professional Associations to increase their education efforts and increase their promotion of professional adherence to universal precautions in health-care and call on professional Associations to develop policies that will facilitate the voluntary reporting of the infection status and management of the infected practitioner.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** OPHA reject any calls for health-care workers with HIV being compelled to inform their patients.

### Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

**Status:** Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

**ACTIVE**, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

**ARCHIVED**, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

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