

# New Zealand Paediatric Surveillance Unit

## HIV INFECTION, AIDS AND PERINATAL EXPOSURE TO HIV PROTOCOL

### Study Objectives:

To determine the extent and outcome of recognised perinatal exposure to HIV infection in New Zealand.

### CASE DEFINITION AND REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

*Any infant or child newly recognised as being born to an HIV infected woman; whether HIV infected or not.*

Please report any new patients who you have seen this month to NZPSU through our monthly reporting surveys or via email to [nzpsu@otago.ac.nz](mailto:nzpsu@otago.ac.nz).

### Follow-up of positive returns:

A questionnaire requesting further details will be forwarded to the practitioners who report a case.

### Background:

At the start of the study in 1997, 18 children under the age of 15 had been diagnosed with HIV in New Zealand. Six of these had been diagnosed with AIDS.

Of these 18 children found to have been infected with HIV, 7 were reported to have suffered from haemophilia (and had been infected by contaminated blood products), and 7 to have been perinatally infected. No means of infection was given for the remaining 4 children. All of the children with haemophilia were diagnosed in 1987 or earlier, whereas all but one of the perinatally infected children were born after 1991. It was possible that there were other HIV infected children in New Zealand whose infection had not been recognised.

Information from the NZPSU on all infants exposed to HIV infection *in utero* is being used to complement data on children infected with HIV and who have progressed to AIDS (collected by the AIDS Epidemiology Group). This will allow determination of the extent of recognised HIV infection among women whose pregnancies progress to term. The impact of obstetric and perinatal management, which can be a factor in reducing the risk of perinatal transmission, will also be determined.

### Investigators:

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT**

**THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEILLANCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE NZPSU WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NZPSU WEBSITE AND CAN BE  
REQUESTED DIRECTLY FROM NZPSU**