



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

March 2, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

CDC is committed to having a strong monitoring and evaluation system in place for our HIV prevention programs. Over the past few months CDC has received a great deal of feedback and concerns regarding the Program Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS), specifically on data collection requirements, timelines, communications, and implementation support services. As a result, CDC is conducting a review of PEMS and the efforts needed to support grantees' successful adoption of the PEMS monitoring and evaluation requirements.

During the next several weeks, CDC will work with grantees and national prevention partners to review all aspects of PEMS and make appropriate adjustments and refinements, including timelines. CDC is committed to implementing PEMS in a timely manner. Our immediate goal is to have the PEMS Counseling, Testing and Referral data collection system in place and operational by October 1, 2006. CDC will provide technical assistance and training to grantees over the coming months.

Until the review is completed, the PEMS data collection timelines (per CDC communication released December 19, 2005) are on hold. No formal request for a data collection extension is required. In the interim, CDC requests that you continue to collect counseling and testing and Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS) data using either the PEMS software or existing systems.

CDC applauds the efforts of those agencies already collecting and entering PEMS data and encourages these jurisdictions to continue utilizing the PEMS system in their daily prevention processes (e.g., maintaining agency information and program plan data).

Although difficult to design a solution that meets everyone's needs, CDC is dedicated to working collaboratively with grantees to improve HIV prevention program planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation through PEMS.

Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication to HIV/AIDS prevention.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Janssen, M.D.
Director
Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention
National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention