Recognizing the Critical Work of Disease Intervention Specialists in STD Prevention and Control

The first Friday in October – this year on October 6 – Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) are celebrated on National DIS Recognition Day.

DIS are specialized public health professionals dedicated to preventing the spread of communicable diseases and protecting the public’s health. DIS work behind the scenes providing sensitive services while protecting each individual’s confidentiality and trust. Their work is integral to STD/HIV prevention and control, as they work with providers and patients both (1) to ensure treatment of patients newly diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and linkage to care for patients living with HIV, as well as (2) to provide Partner Services. Through Partner Services, DIS assist patients with the notification of their partners and others they know who would benefit from STD/HIV testing and appropriate treatment, all while protecting the patient’s privacy and offering other counseling resources.

Providers can support this critical work by explaining to patients the benefits of, and confidentiality ensured by, Partner Services.

Any provider who either:
- needs assistance ensuring treatment or care of their patients diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, or HIV, or
- has a patient diagnosed with syphilis or HIV who is interested in participating in Partner Services
should call San Francisco City Clinic at 415-487-5536. TQN/SSP