NIH to Use Stimulus Money to Study Universal HIV Testing

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) plans to use taxpayer stimulus money to study whether universal HIV testing is “feasible,” Cybercast News Service reports.

According to the article, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke June 1 on Capitol Hill to explain how the agency plans to spend its $10.4 billion in stimulus funding. It is not yet known how much of that amount will go toward the feasibility study.

Fauci said that convincing all Americans to get an HIV test during routine medical examinations must be a key component to the United States’ domestic fight against HIV/AIDS. Coupled with treatment, he said, universal testing could put an end to new infections.

“If you model HIV globally [examine how it spreads] and you test everybody once a year and treat everybody who’s infected and you get 95 percent compliance, you can theoretically shut the virus off.”

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