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Fairmont Hospital, 15400 Foothill Blvd. San Leandro, CA 94578.**

Contributors

Fairmont Hospital (San Leandro, Calif.)

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**AIDS
SERVICES
FAIRMONT
HOSPITAL**

**INFORMATION
&
SERVICES**

577-1620

FAIRMONT HOSPITAL
15400 Foothill Blvd.
San Leandro, CA 94578

AIDS:

A Definition

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is a life threatening disease which damages the immune system in people with no previous immune problems. It often occurs in people in their 20's and 30's.

The causative agent for AIDS has recently been found to be a virus. However, like many viral infections, not everyone who becomes infected with this virus will become ill or develop AIDS. For reasons still not understood, those people lose resistance to many diseases which do not cause disease in healthy people. These diseases have always been present but are not common in healthy adults. They include: parasites such as *Pneumocystis Carinii*, which causes pneumonia; bacteria such as *Mycobacterium avium* intercellulare, a relative of the tuberculosis organism; fungus such as *Candida*, which in people with AIDS can cause infections in the esophagus; and certain rare cancers, especially Kaposi's Sarcoma. While there is no drug to kill the virus causing AIDS and no way to repair the immune system, the infections and cancers which result can be treated.

The following symptoms may be present in people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions (ARC):

- Unexplained, increasing and ongoing fatigue.

- Periodic or regular fevers, shaking chills or night sweats not accompanied by a known illness and lasting longer than several weeks.
- Weight loss that is unexpected and greater than approximately 10 pounds in less than 2 months.
- Otherwise unexplained swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes usually in the neck, armpits or groin) lasting more than 2 weeks.
- Pink to purple flat or raised blotches or lumps, usually painless, occurring on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids or rectum. Initially they may look like bruises that do not go away and they are usually harder than the skin around them.
- Persistent, often dry cough, not due to smoking and lasting too long to be due to a common respiratory infection.
- Persistent diarrhea.
- Shortness of breath which is new and getting worse.
- Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.

Medical Services:

In our AIDS clinic, specially trained gay and AIDS-sensitive staff provide comprehensive medical evaluation, including lab work, x-ray, and other necessary diagnostic procedures. In addition, there is liaison with Highland Hospital for

specific specialty clinics not available at Fairmont, such as Bronchoscopy, Gallium scans and surgery.

Education Services:

Fairmont AIDS staff provide information and education to health care providers, to people with AIDS or ARC, to family, friends, and other concerned people. The staff can be available to community organizations and business for education and consultation.

Counseling Services:

Our social service staff provide a full spectrum of social services, information, and referral, housing advocacy, and liaison with other care-providers.

In Patient Services:

Fairmont has a special unit for people with AIDS providing comprehensive acute-and long-term care, with access to all relevant support services.

AIDS Support Group:

A worried well group for gay and bisexual men will be available in July '85 for people with symptoms, people with fears, or for friends and lovers of people with AIDS. This 8 week series is based on a format developed by the San Francisco AIDS Project, out of U.C. Medical Center, and will provide information and support, led by trained staff. These are on going groups.

Payment:

Fairmont accepts medi-cal and 3rd party payment. In addition, the county provides services at reduced or no cost to people who do not qualify for medi-cal.

Additional Information:

Fairmont is an alternative blood testing site for the HTLV-III virus antibody. We will provide education and advice to all people interested in this test as well as the test itself.

AIDS Risk Reduction:

We know that the AIDS virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids and secretions. Unprotected sexual contact, especially with many different partners, and the sharing of IV drug needles and equipment can lead to exposure to the virus. In addition, repeated exposures to a variety of infections and sexually transmitted disease can weaken the immune system and jeopardize a person's ability to fight off the AIDS virus if that person does become infected. Therefore we recommend:

- Use condoms.
- Become familiar with "safe sex" guidelines.
- Reduce number of sex partners.
- Don't share IV needles and works.

For more information contact the Fairmont AIDS service staff at 577-1620.

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P.C.

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4:30-7
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470

27th St.

Oakland

874-7196

1-30 - 330 W+Fr.