

# Implementing HIV Testing in Nonclinical Settings

## A Guide for HIV Testing Providers

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### Provider Flip Cards for Testing Together

The following provider flip cards are provided as job aids to accompany the Implementation Guide. Provider flip cards have been formatted in this file for printing on A6 paper. They can be printed, laminated, and bound (a 1-inch binder ring may be used). Flip cards are a handy “cheat sheet” for HIV testing providers during an HIV testing session with clients. They not only list the main steps of the HIV testing protocol, but also the tasks within each step. This flip card has been provided for the Rapid HIV testing scenario, and may be adapted for Instant or Nonrapid HIV testing scenarios if needed.

- PROVIDER FLIP CARD—Rapid HIV Testing for Testing Together

## Testing Together Protocol

1	<b>Introduce Testing Together and Obtain Concurrence</b>
2	<b>Prepare For and Conduct HIV Test</b> <i>(10–20 minute read time)</i>
3	<b>Explore Couple's Relationship</b>
4	<b>Discuss HIV Risk Concerns and Reasons for Seeking Testing Together</b>
5	<b>Discuss Couple's Agreement</b>
6	<b>Provide Initial Results and Follow Protocol for Confirmatory Test</b>
7	<b>Develop Care, Treatment, and Prevention Plan Based on Results</b>
8	<b>Refer and Link with Medical Care, Social and Behavioral Services</b>

## STEP 1

### Introduce Testing Together and Obtain Concurrence

- Introduce yourself and describe your role as counselor.
- Explain Testing Together and discuss benefits.
- Describe conditions for receiving Testing Together.
  - Partners agree to discuss HIV risk issues and concerns together.
  - Couple is willing to receive results together.
  - Couple commits to shared confidentiality; they agree to make disclosure decisions together.
- Address expectations, roles, and responsibilities of couple.
- Provide session overview.
- Obtain concurrence to receive Testing Together.

### STEP 2

#### **Prepare For and Conduct Rapid HIV Test (10–20 minute read time)**

- Explain process of conducting rapid HIV test.
- Explain meaning of positive and negative results, including:
  - Need for confirmatory test if positive
  - Need for re-testing if negative
- Explain possible results for couple
  - Both may be HIV-negative
  - Both may be HIV-positive
  - One may be HIV-positive and the other may be HIV-negative
- Obtain consent to test (if required)
- Collect specimens and conduct rapid HIV tests

### STEP 3

#### Explore Couple's Relationship

- Establish nature and duration of the couple's relationship
- Summarize and reflect on the couple's history and their current situation
  - Focus on strengths in the relationship

### STEP 4

#### **Discuss the Couple's HIV Risk Concerns and Reasons for Seeking Testing Together**

- Review how the couple decided to receive Testing Together
- Assess the couple's feelings associated with receiving Testing Together
- Assess the couple's knowledge of HIV and how it is transmitted; when discussing HIV risk:
  - Use abstract language
  - Remind couple to focus on present and future
- Address indicators of increased risk in couple's relationship
- Summarize the discussion and provide motivation and support for addressing HIV risk issues

### STEP 5

#### Discuss Couple's Agreement

- Explain concept of agreements in a couple's relationship
- Ask couple if they have an agreement
  - If yes, encourage couple to describe what their agreement looks like; what are the terms of their agreement
  - If no, encourage couple to talk about terms of an agreement they might like to have
- Note the relationship between agreement and HIV risk
- Engage couple in a role play around how they would like to find out if one partner violated the terms of the agreement
- Summarize discussion and reinforce couple's ability to talk openly about their agreement

### STEP 6

#### Provide Initial Results and Follow Protocol for Confirmatory Test

- Confirm readiness to receive results
- Provide clear explanation of results

#### CONCORDANT NEGATIVE:

- “Your results are the same. You are both HIV-negative. The tests did not detect HIV antibodies.”

#### CONCORDANT POSITIVE:

- “Your results are the same. You are both HIV-positive. The tests detected HIV antibodies.”

#### DISCORDANT: *deliver HIV-positive test result first.*

- “Your test results are different. You are HIV-positive, which means the test detected HIV antibodies.”

### STEP 7

#### Develop Care, Treatment, and Prevention Plan Based on Couple's Results

##### CONCORDANT NEGATIVE

- Explore couple's reaction to results
- Advise on how to keep both partners HIV-negative
  - Revisit sexual agreement and reinforce decisions that will help couple remain negative
  - Emphasize condom use and reducing number outside partners
  - Discuss pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), if appropriate
- Discuss need for re-testing
  - If recent exposure, re-test in \_\_\_ weeks
  - If no recent exposure, re-test in 6–12 months

### STEP 7

#### Develop Care, Treatment, and Prevention Plan Based on Couple's Results

##### CONCORDANT POSITIVE

- Explore couple's reaction to results
- Encourage mutual support and diffuse blame
- Advise to access care and treatment for HIV
  - Treatment can prevent transmission and help people with HIV live longer
  - Other health issues can be discussed with HIV care provider to keep couple healthy
- Advise on how to prevent HIV transmission
  - Revisit sexual agreement and reinforce decisions that will prevent transmission
  - Emphasize condom use and reducing number outside partners
  - Encourage outside partners to be tested
- Discuss disclosure and getting support
- Discuss pregnancy status and desires as needed

### STEP 7

#### Develop Care, Treatment, and Prevention Plan Based on Couple's Results

##### DISCORDANT

- Explore couple's reaction to results
- Review discordance
- Encourage mutual support and diffuse blame
- Advise to access care and treatment for HIV
  - Treatment can prevent transmission and help people with HIV live longer
  - Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) can prevent HIV acquisition in the negative partner
- Advise on how to prevent HIV transmission
  - Revisit sexual agreement and reinforce decisions that will prevent transmission
  - Emphasize condom use and reducing number outside partners
  - Encourage outside partners to be tested
- Discuss need for re-testing HIV-negative partner
- Discuss disclosure and getting support
- Discuss pregnancy status and desires as needed

### STEP 8

#### Refer and Link with Medical Care, Social and Behavioral Services

##### CONCORDANT NEGATIVE

- Link the couple with appropriate follow-up services based on their situation and needs, including:
  - PrEP
  - STI screening and/or treatment
  - Behavioral interventions
  - Reproductive Health
  - Re-testing for HIV
  - Counseling for mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence

## STEP 8

### Refer and Link with Medical Care, Social and Behavioral Services

#### CONCORDANT POSITIVE

- Link the couple with appropriate follow-up services based on their situation and needs, including:
  - HIV care and treatment
  - STI screening and/or treatment
  - TB screening
  - Partner services
  - Behavioral interventions
  - Reproductive Health
  - Counseling for mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence

### STEP 8

#### Refer and Link with Medical Care, Social and Behavioral Services

##### DISCORDANT

- Link the couple with appropriate follow-up services based on their situation and needs, including:
  - HIV care and treatment
  - STI screening and/or treatment
  - TB screening
  - Partner services
  - PrEP
  - nPEP
  - Behavioral interventions
  - Reproductive Health
  - Re-testing for HIV
  - Counseling for mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence