



TESTING PRACTICE



What does a rapid HIV test measure?

- It measures the antibodies against HIV (= reaction of immune system to HIV virus)
- It doesn't measure HIV virus itself
- 2 different rapid tests



Collect blood test and other necessary lab supplies



Use one strip test and be sure to preserve the lot number on the remaining packet of strip



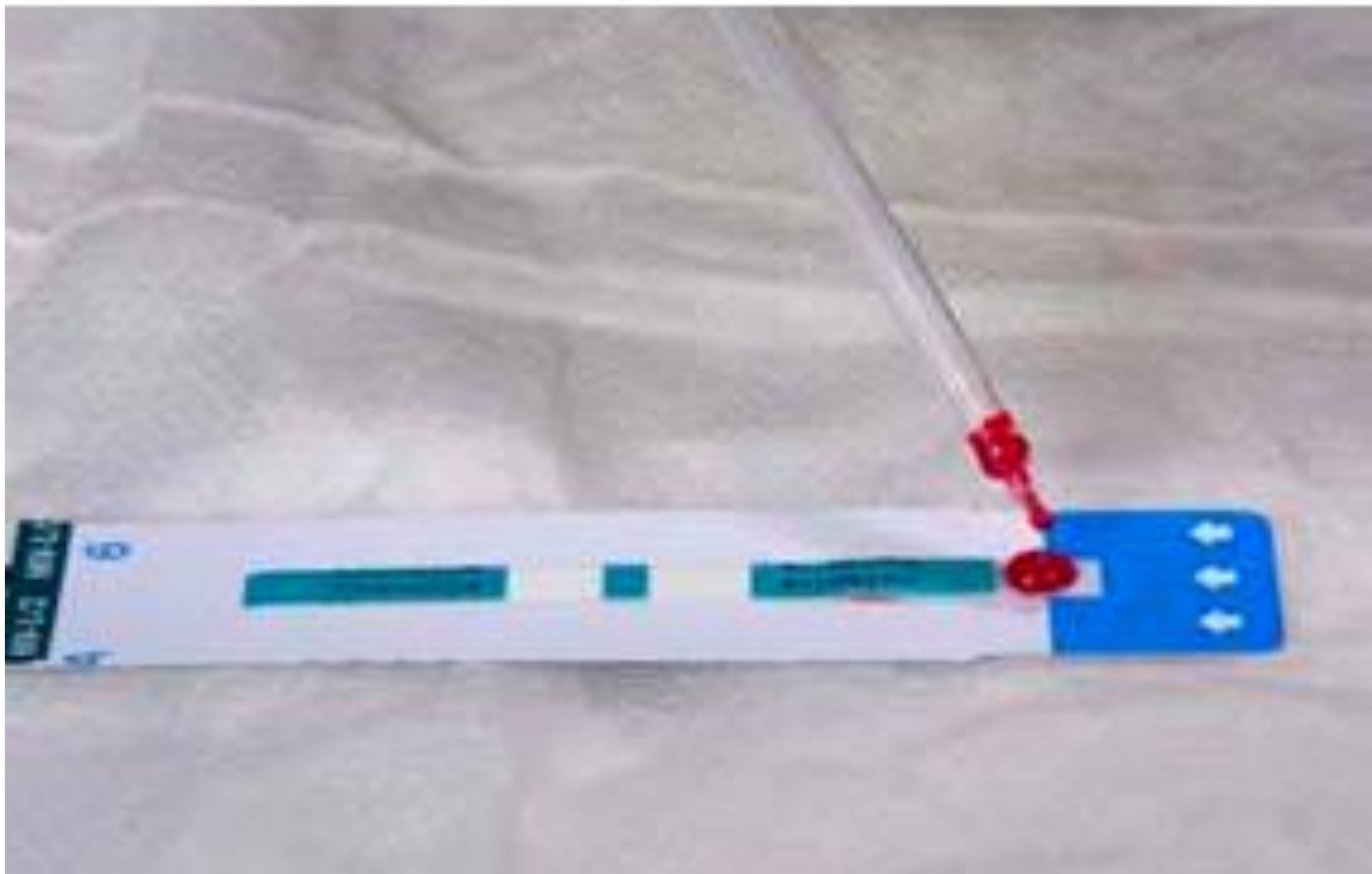
Pull off protective foil cover



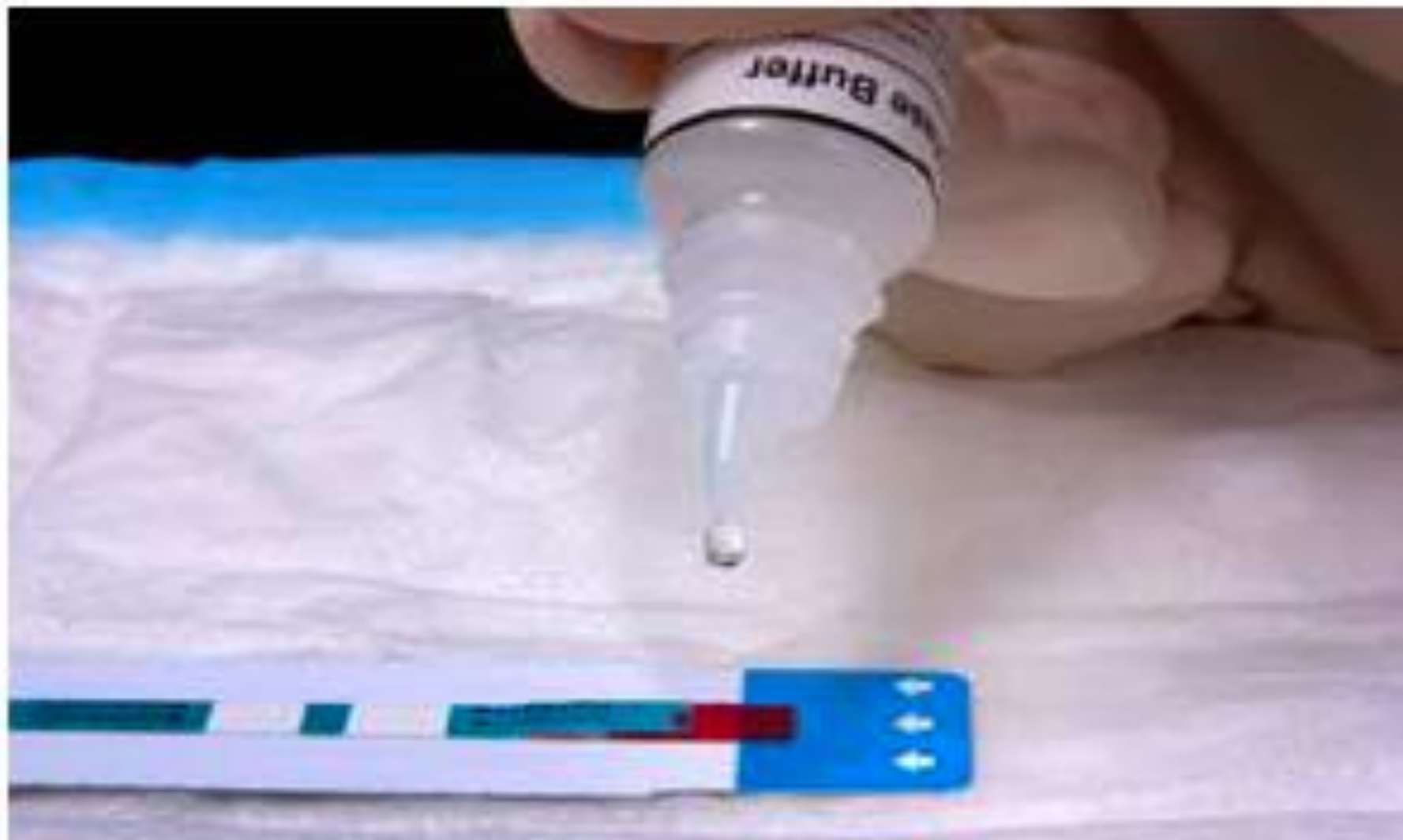
Collect 50 μ l of specimen using precision
pipette



Apply the specimen on the strip



Add drop to chase buffer of the specimen



Wait 15 min (no longer than 60 min) before reading result.



Results

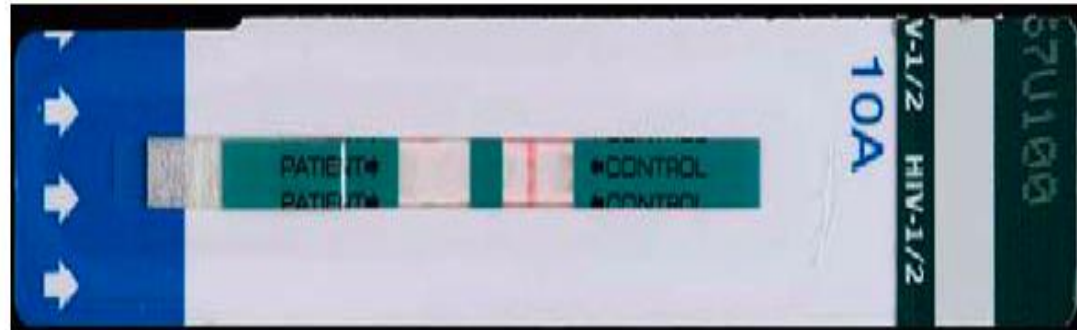
Reactive

2 lines of any intensity appear in both the **control** and **patient** areas.



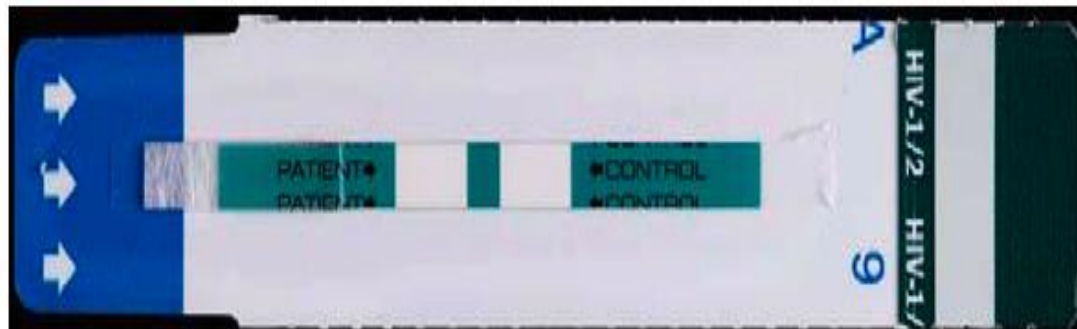
Non-reactive

1 line appears in the **control** area and no line in the patient area.



Invalid

No line appears in the **control** area. Do not report invalid results. Repeat test with a new test device even if a line appears in the patient area.



Enter the result in the passport



If the first test is Positive,
then repeat with second test using Unigold;
Remove device from package



Collect 50 μ l of specimen using precision
pipette



Add 2 drops (60 μ l) of specimen to the sample port in the device



Add 2 drops (60 μ l) of the appropriate wash reagent to sample port



Wait for 10 min (no longer than 20) before reading the result



Uni-Gold HIV Rapid Test Results

Reactive

2 lines of any intensity appear in **both** the **control** and **test** areas.



Non-reactive

1 line appears in the **control** area and no line in the test area.



Invalid

No line appears in the **control** area. Do not report invalid results. Repeat test with a new test device even if a line appears in the test area.



Enter the result in the passport

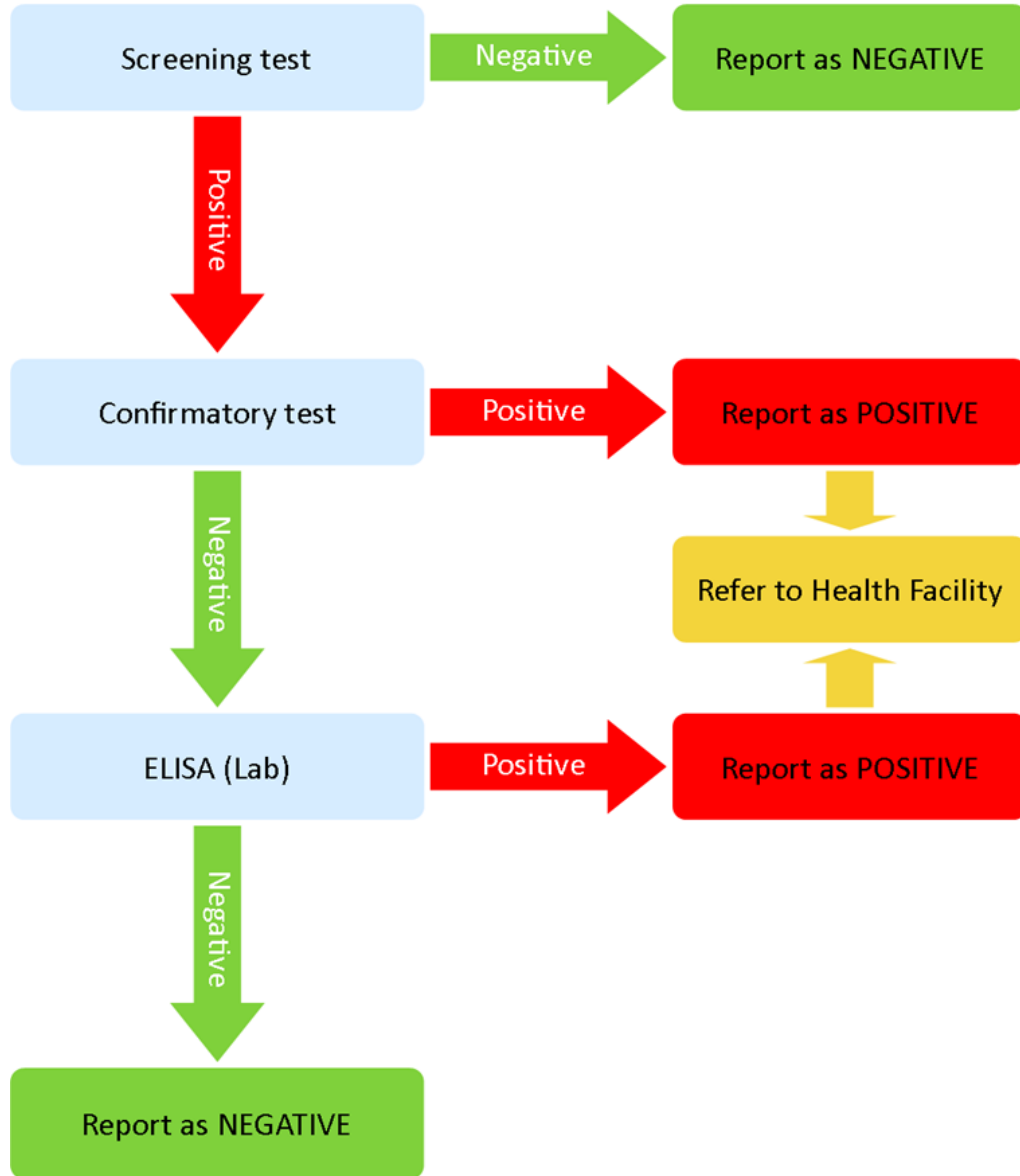


DO YOU WANT TO TRY?

HIV TESTING ALGORITHM – Community-based HTC M1SS Fixed Testing Sites Community Health Agents (CHA) and Traditional Health Practitioner (THP)

Community HIV Testing algorithm

Clients tested by Community Testing



- The screening test is conducted with a test kit that is highly sensitive, e.g. **DETERMINE**
- The confirmatory test is conducted with a test kit that is highly specific, e.g. **UNIGOLD**
- In case of discordant result , blood is sent to lab for test which is both highly sensitive and specific – **ELISA**

- **Interpreting the test results**
- HIV rapid tests detect the presence of antibodies to HIV in the blood. This means that a person tests positive only after developing antibodies to HIV. The HIV rapid tests used for HIV testing detect the presence of antibodies after around 12 weeks post-infection.

- **WHEN THE TEST RESULT IS: NEGATIVE**

- The HIV test could not detect antibodies to HIV. This result can be interpreted in 2 ways: the person does not have HIV, or the person may be infected with HIV but the body has not yet produced antibodies to HIV.
- The counsellor reviews the client's risk behaviours to determine whether a repeat test is needed in 3 months. All clients who have tested Negative are encouraged to do repeat testing after 3 months.

- **WHEN THE TEST RESULT IS: POSITIVE**

- The person has developed antibodies to HIV. This means that the person has the HIV virus in their body*. At least two tests have been conducted on the sample to confirm this (see the Testing Algorithm).

- **WHEN THE TEST RESULT IS: INDETERMINATE**

- When the first HIV rapid test is Positive, but the second is Negative – the result could not be confirmed. The counsellor discusses with the client the need to repeat the testing at the laboratory by ELISA, and the results collection procedure.
- * HIV antibody testing is not recommended for children less than 18 months old because the child may still have the mother's antibodies for HIV in their blood, making the common HIV rapid test inaccurate. Children below 18 months are not tested at the M1SS or by Community Health Agents.

Pre Test Group/Individual Educational Session by Community Health Agent (CHA)			
Target group: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All people presenting at home visited by CHA	Objectives: For the client to be able to explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The basic facts on HIV/AIDSHIV testing procedures	Tools/Visual aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none">HIV/AIDS Counselling and Testing FlipchartMale and female condomsDemo penis	Mode: Individual or Group session
			Allocated time: 20 minutes
1. Welcome client and introduction of the CHA and the door-to-door program			
2. Explain service offered by CHA <ul style="list-style-type: none">As a CHA I can I offer you a free HIV test and will check if you have any symptoms of TB, also offer you a pregnancy test and make referral to the clinic for services.If you've tested positive, I will give you a referral letter for follow up in the nearest health facility.Explain about confidentiality , all data collected with be kept confidential and only shared to relevant people to get support for the client with consent			
3. Explain general facts on HIV/AIDS			
What is HIV/AIDS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Diseases and CD4HIVCD4, HIV and opportunistic infections			
How is HIV/AIDS transmitted? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Through unprotected sexual intercourse with an HIV-infected partnerFrom an HIV-infected mother to her child during pregnancy, delivery or breast feedingThrough contact with blood from an HIV-infected person			
How can we prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Through the use of condoms – do condom demonstrationMale circumcision can reduce the spread of HIV. But if a man tests HIV positive, there are no benefits for preventing the spread of HIV to your partner. In that case male circumcision only has hygienic benefits. ALWAYS use a condom even if you're already circumcised.			
Why is it important to take an HIV test? <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you've tested positive, we will be able to help you to live a healthy life, as there are safe and effective medicines to treat you.			
4. Explain HIV testing procedure:			
Am I obliged to take a test? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Taking a test is entirely voluntary and it's up to you to decide if you want to take an HIV test. The counselor will discuss with you individually if you agree to take the test.If you agree to test, you will be asked to sign a form that states you voluntarily take the test.Fill in name and date on the consent form.			
Who will get to know my result?			

2. Welcome client and introduction of the CHA and the door-to-door program.

2. Explain service offered by CHA

- As a CHA I can offer you a free HIV test and will check if you have any symptoms of TB, also offer you a pregnancy test and make referral to the clinic for services.
 - If you've tested positive, I will give you a referral letter for follow up in the nearest health facility.
- Explain about confidentiality, all data collected will be kept confidential and only shared to relevant people to get support for the client with consent

3. Explain general facts on HIV/AIDS

What is HIV/AIDS?

- Diseases and CD4
- HIV
- CD4, HIV and opportunistic infections

How is HIV/AIDS transmitted?

- Through unprotected sexual intercourse with an HIV-infected partner
- From an HIV-infected mother to her child during pregnancy, delivery or breast feeding
- Through contact with blood from an HIV-infected person

How can we prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS?

- Through the use of condoms – **do condom demonstration**
- Male circumcision can reduce the spread of HIV. But if a man tests HIV positive, there are no benefits for preventing the spread of HIV to your partner. In that case male circumcision only has hygienic benefits. **ALWAYS use a condom** even if you're already circumcised.

Why is it important to take an HIV test?

- If you've tested positive, we will be able to help you to live a healthy life, as there are safe and effective medicines to treat you.

4. Explain HIV testing procedure:

Am I obliged to take a test?

- Taking a test is entirely voluntary and it's up to you to decide if you want to take an HIV test. The counselor will discuss with you individually if you agree to take the test.
- If you agree to test, you will be asked to sign a form that states you voluntarily take the test.
- Fill in name and date on the consent form.

Who will get to know my result?

- Your result will only be shared by the health workers who need to know your status to be able to help you (counselor, nurse). Your results will not be shared with other people without your consent.

What do the results mean?

- Your result can be positive or negative.
- A positive result means you are infected with HIV. You will be referred to a clinic where they will do a CD4 count test.
- If your **CD4 count is below 350**, you will need to start ART. You can also choose to start treatment if your **CD4 is below 500**.
- If you have "severe disease" or certain conditions such as pregnancy, you may need also to start ART.
- A negative result means that at the time of testing no HIV antibodies were found in your blood. However, there is a window period of 3 months. This means that the test will not recognize you as HIV positive if you have been infected with HIV in the last 3 months. We advise you to come back for a test in 3 months if you might have been at risk in the last 3 months.
- Fill in name and date on the results form

5. Conclude session, Questions & Answers

Pre Test Session 2/2

HIV Testing and Post Test Counselling Session by Community Health Agent (CHA)			
Target group: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All people agreeing for testing	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">For the clients to know and cope with HIV status	Tools/Visual aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none">HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing Flipchart	Mode: Individual session
			Allocated time: 10 - 15 minutes
1. Before testing – inform the client and obtain consent for testing			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess client’s understanding of HIV/AIDSCheck if the client is prepared to do an HIV test and if s/he understands the implications of doing itExplain the consent form and get written consent from client			
2. Proceed with testing procedure			
3. While waiting for test results			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fill in the passport of clientAssessment of risks and need to retest after window periodAssessment of support structure			
4. When test results are ready			
Give the results to the client <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide results clearly and simply – in a neutral toneShow the client her/his test kit resultGive time for result to sink in, and avoid asking questions or giving informationDeal with emotions that might ariseReview meaning of result and the client’s understanding of the result			
For HIV negative clients: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ “Your results show that you are HIV negative, meaning that at the time of testing, HIV was not found in your body”- “WINDOW PERIOD” (if applicable, in reference to most recent risk exposure, make reference to pre test counseling)- If the client might have put themselves at risk in the last 3 months discuss date at which they should get tested after the window period and the importance of not opening a new window period while waiting to be tested again)			
For HIV positive clients: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ “Your results show that you are HIV positive, meaning that you have HIV in you body. This result does not mean that you have AIDS and does not indicate when you may become ill from the virus”- Review meaning of results and client understanding of the results.❖ “What does this result mean for you?”- Recap on positive living discussed during the pretest session❖ “In the pretest counseling session we talked about things that you can do to ensure that you stay healthy for as long as possible, what is it that you can do?”			

1. Before testing – inform the client and obtain consent for testing

- Assess client's understanding of HIV/AIDS
- Check if the client is prepared to do an HIV test and if s/he understands the implications of doing it
- Explain the consent form and get written consent from client

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

2. Proceed with testing procedure

3. While waiting for test results

- Fill in the passport of client
- Assessment of risks and need to retest after window period
- Assessment of support structure

HIV Testing & Post Test 2/2

4. When test results are ready

Give the results to the client

- Provide results clearly and simply – in a neutral tone
- Show the client her/his test kit result
- Give time for result to sink in, and avoid asking questions or giving information
- Deal with emotions that might arise
- Review meaning of result and the client's understanding of the result

For HIV negative clients:

- ❖ *"Your results show that you are HIV negative, meaning that at the time of testing, HIV was not found in your body"*
- *"WINDOW PERIOD"* (if applicable, in reference to most recent risk exposure, make reference to pre test counseling)
- If the client might have put themselves at risk in the last 3 months discuss date at which they should get tested after the window period and the importance of not opening a new window period while waiting to be tested again)

For HIV positive clients:

- ❖ *"Your results show that you are HIV positive, meaning that you have HIV in your body. This result does not mean that you have AIDS and does not indicate when you may become ill from the virus"*
- Review meaning of results and client understanding of the results.
- ❖ *"What does this result mean for you?"*
- Recap on positive living discussed during the pretest session
- ❖ *"In the pretest counseling session we talked about things that you can do to ensure that you stay healthy for as long as possible, what is it that you can do?"*
- Discuss referral to clinic for assessment and staging
- You will need to attend the clinician (sister) for **1st visit assessment** and **staging**
- You will be screened for TB and STIs, and receive treatment if necessary
- You will have your blood taken for CD4 (results available in 20 minutes with PIMA machine or in 3 days in a routine lab)
- You may need to have your baseline blood taken (if indicated by CD4 and/or staging)
- You will be booked for 1st and 2nd literacy classes.
- What might get in the way and prevent you from getting this service?
- I am available for any support you need to access your treatment.

5. Conclude session, Questions & Answers

