HIV Testing and Counseling
Disclosure of Interest

The presenters for this program have the following financial interest/relationship with manufacturers of commercial products.

- Chena Brown: None
- Jada Sims: None
Housekeeping

Financial Disclosures:
• The presenter has no financial interest to disclose

Continuing Education Credits:
• Social Work & Nursing CEs offered

Cell Phones/Pagers:
• Please place on silence or vibrate

Restrooms:
• If you gotta go...please go!
Learning Objectives:

- Know the 6 steps of Risk targeted HIV testing
- Conduct an HIV pretest counseling session
- Conduct HIV post test counseling session
- Demonstrate how to incorporate risk reduction options into a treatment plan
# Introductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender Pronouns</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Midwest AIDS Training + Education Center
Knowledge of HIV
HIV CARE CONTINUUM:
THE SERIES OF STEPS A PERSON WITH HIV TAKES FROM INITIAL DIAGNOSIS THROUGH THEIR SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT WITH HIV MEDICATION

- DIAGNOSED WITH HIV
- LINKED TO CARE
- ENGAGED OR RETAINED IN CARE
- PRESCRIBED ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY
- ACHIEVED VIRAL SUPPRESSION
Client-centered counseling techniques

Using open-ended questions
- avoid asking closed-ended questions that limit the client’s possible responses
- open-ended questions start with “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” “how,” or “tell me about”

Attending
- eye contact, facial expressions, body language
- nodding, quasi-verbal remarks (“mm,” “ok,” etc)

Paraphrasing and Reflecting feelings
- using your own words to rephrase the main points (content) shared by the client
- using the same feeling words to validate the emotions (affect) expressed by the client

Giving information simply (KISS)
- avoid jargon
- address specific information needs, not HIV 101 (clarify myths/misconceptions)
- acknowledge what you don’t know
- check the client’s understanding
Client-centered counseling techniques

**Third-Personing / Normalizing**
- using the experience of others to help normalize a situation

**Acknowledging strengths**
- point out the positive or beneficial aspects of the client’s situation or behavior
Client-centered counseling techniques

**Confronting**
- asking for clarification when the client’s thoughts/behaviors seem inconsistent

**Summarizing and Closing**
- briefly recapping the main points of the conversation and what happens next
Make these questions open-ended

Do you know how HIV is transmitted?
Do you have unprotected sex?
Do you use condoms?
Are you monogamous?
Have you ever shared needles?
Do you understand your test results?
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

1. Introduce and orient the client to the session
2. Prepare for and conduct the rapid HIV test
3. Conduct brief risk screening
4. Deliver result
5. Develop a care, treatment, and prevention plan based on test result
6. Summarize and close session
COUNSELING BEGINS....

NOW...
Step 1: Introduce and Orient Client to the Session
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

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Step 1: Introduce and orient client to the session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality (and exceptions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenting issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate duration of session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidential vs. anonymous testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of HIV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orienting Yourself

- Name
- Gender Pronouns
- Role
- Presenting Issue
Step 1: Orienting Client to the Session

- Client’s Name
- Gender Pronouns
- Presenting Issue
- Duration of Session
- Confidential vs. Anonymous Testing
Step 1: Presenting Issue

“What brings you in today?”
Patient-Initiated Testing

If the patient requests an HIV test

Have you had an HIV test before?

When was your last HIV test?

What was the result of your last HIV test?

Have you had a recent exposure to HIV?

Provider-Initiated Testing

If the patient does not request an HIV test

Establish rapport and address the client’s presenting health concern(s) first

Within the context of their care when possible

Explain your reason for raising the issue

Testing is recommended for
Confidential Testing

Confidential: HIV antibody testing means that you and the health care provider know your results, and it may be recorded in your medical file at the testing site.

- Some clinics offer confidential testing to make it easier for the patient to access their own results at a later date, or to make it easier to track the number of unique new cases that are being found. In some places, the government requires confidential instead of anonymous as a condition of funding. This makes it easier for agencies to distinguish new HIV infections from cases of someone testing positive in multiple locations.
Anonymous Testing

Anonymous testing means that absolutely no one other than you has access to your test results since your name is not recorded at the test site.

- Anonymous and confidential HIV tests use the same testing method.

The **only difference** is that one does not have your name attached to the results.
Rapid vs. Conventional Testing
Rapid vs. Conventional Testing

- **Conventional HIV Test:**
  Intravenous blood test, blood sample is sent laboratory for testing and it can take 1-2 weeks before the test results are available.

**Rapid HIV Test:**

can provide results within 15-20 minutes using oral fluid or a blood or plasma sample., requires a confirmatory test.
Example: Unigold, Clearview
Step 2: Prepare for and Conduct the HIV Test
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

1. Introduce and orient the client to the session
2. Prepare for and conduct the rapid HIV test
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5. Develop a care, treatment, and prevention plan based on test result
6. Summarize and close session
Step 2: Prepare for and Conduct the Rapid HIV test

- Explain the process of conducting the HIV test
- Explain the meaning of the possible results
- Explain
- Obtain consent
- Collect specimen & conduct test
Process of Conducting an HIV Test

Explain Testing Procedure

(Note: Testing will vary by site: Quick finger prick, oral swap, blood test)
How accurate is an HIV test?

- More than 99% accurate …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EIA (lab)</td>
<td>plasma</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OraQuick</td>
<td>oral fluid</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OraQuick</td>
<td>fingerstick</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniGold</td>
<td>fingerstick</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ClearView</td>
<td>all specimens</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Diagnostic Tests for HIV Infection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assay Type</th>
<th>Indicated Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd generation antibody</td>
<td>EIA or ELISA screen for chronic HIV infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Blot (WB)</td>
<td>confirmation of HIV infection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Detects within 3-4 weeks
- if lab enzyme immunoassay (EIA) / enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is negative, no further testing is done
- if lab EIA is positive, 2nd EIA and WB are done automatically to confirm presence of HIV Ab
- all rapid tests are EIAs and must be confirmed
## Diagnostic Tests for HIV Infection

<table>
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<th>Assay Type</th>
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</table>
| 4th generation dual assay
| Determine®
| HIV-1 / HIV-2 Ab / Ag |
| screening for both acute and chronic HIV infection |

- detects p24 antigen within 10-14 days of infection
- detects antibodies to HIV-1 or HIV-2 within 4 wks
- positive Ag must be confirmed with Nucleic Acid Test (NAT)
- positive Ab must be confirmed with Multi-spot
5th Generation Testing

- "5th Generation" (BioPlex 2200 HIV Ag-Ab assay) design
- Simultaneously detects and reports a screen and three individual HIV results:
  - HIV Ag-Ab Screen with
  - HIV-1 p24 Ag
  - HIV-1 Ab (Groups M & O)
  - HIV-2 Ab
- Includes HIV-1 and HIV-2 Ab Differentiation & Enhanced sensitivity for p24 antigen detection
- Very similar to generation 4, big difference is the addition of the HIV-1 Ab (groups M & O)
What is the “window period”

The window period is the time between potential exposure to HIV and the point when a test will give an accurate result.

The window period for a 4th generation antigen/antibody test (i.e. Determine™ HIV – 1/2 Ag/Ab Combo) is 12-26 days.

The window period for an antibody test (i.e. Clearview® COMPLETE HIV 1/2) is 90 days.
Window Period

The HIV Testing “Window Period”

- **Initial Infection**
  - 3 weeks
  - Window Period for Antigens

- **Antigens Detected**
  - 3 months
  - Window Period for Antibodies

- **Antibodies Detected**

**NOTE:** You will need to explain the window period to every client you test, regardless of the test you use. **IT NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED PRIOR TO TESTING.**
Explain Meaning of Possible Results

Negative = No HIV was found (Non-Reactive)
- Discuss widow period

Preliminary Positive (Reactive)
- Must be confirmed by a laboratory test

Invalid
- Faulty Test
If Preliminary Positive ...

Confirmatory Test

- Takes 1-2 weeks to confirm results
- Performed in the laboratory
- May be negative or positive
- Positive confirms a reactive result
- Negative is a negative result
The question you should always ask…

“How Would You Feel if Positive?”

Support System

Partner Services
Disclosure / Partner Services

Disclosure

- Tester MUST report test results to the city
- Person with HIV can decide whether or not to disclose to friends/family/partners

Partner Services

- Provide range of medical and behavioral services to those infected with HIV and other STIs
- Confidentially notify partners of infected persons
Finding your own words

1. Pick a partner
2. Explain “window period” in your own words
Informed Consent
HIV Testing in Illinois

The AIDS Confidentiality Act (ACA)

HIV testing is voluntary – patients may “opt-out”
Since 6/08, written consent is not required; verbal consent documented in the medical record is sufficient to order an HIV test

No HIV test may be ordered without:

- explaining test procedures, meaning of results
- explaining confidential vs. anonymous testing
  - if anonymous testing is requested but not performed on-site, the individual must be referred to another site. Call 800-AID-AIDS (800-243-2437) for anonymous testing locations.
  - referring to anonymous testing site if desired
- obtaining consent (verbal or written)
AIDS Confidentiality Act (ACA):

Providers should:

- utilize best practices by giving test results in person whenever possible
- provide referrals for follow-up counseling
- provide referrals to appropriate medical care
Exceptions to Informed Consent

Illinois State law allows HIV testing without consent in a few additional circumstances:

- Individuals involved in a blood or other bodily fluid exposure with a healthcare worker, law enforcement officer, or paramedic, if a physician determines that the exposure is likely to transmit HIV.
- Individuals charged with certain criminal sexual offenses.
- Newborn infants of mothers whose HIV status is unknown.
Quick Tips!

Consent and information related to HIV testing can often be offered through the following:

- General consent for clinic setting (opt-out check box)
- Posters
- Informative videos playing
- Brochures handed at registration

Remember: Learn your reporting forms!
Collect Specimen and Conduct Test
Step 3: Conduct Brief Risk Screening
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

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2. Prepare for and conduct the rapid HIV test
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Conduct Brief Risk Screening

What are the client’s immediate risk concerns?

What made him/her decide to test?

Listen and probe for

Previous testing history

Indicators of increased risk

Potential exposure in previous 3 months

Symptoms

Ongoing risk behaviors
Questions to Ask Client to Identify Risk Behaviors

1. What brought you in for testing today?
2. What do you think might have put you at risk for HIV?
3. When was the last time you had sex without a condom?
4. Tell me about your partners
5. Tell me about your drug use
Develop Action Plan

1. Separate into two teams.
2. One group creates ideas for risk reduction options.
3. One group creates ideas for harm reduction options.
4. Both teams will report their ideas to entire group.

Risk Reduction
- (Sexual Behavior)

Harm Reduction
- (Drug Behavior)
What can clients do to prevent HIV?

**Sexual Behavior**
- Abstinence
- Be faithful
- Mutual Monogamy
- Condoms

**Drug Use Behavior**
- Don’t use
- Don’t share
- Don’t inject

Problems?
LET'S PRACTICE

FC2
FEMALE CONDOM

FC2
FEMALE CONDOM
What advantages are there to the receptive partner (female) condom?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can be used vaginally or anally</th>
<th>Polyurethane transfers partner’s body heat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Works with any type of lubrication without damaging the condom</td>
<td>Good option for people with latex allergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases receptive partner’s control/power</td>
<td>Can be inserted up to 2 hrs before sex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://fc2femalecondom.com
Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

The word “prophylaxis” means to prevent or control the spread of an infection or disease.

Risk of getting HIV is 92%-99% lower for those on PrEP with consistent adherence.

Must be HIV- 

Follow up and prescription refills every 3 months.

ONE pill daily 
Truvada 
Descovy.

Covered by most insurance programs.
Post-exposure Prophylaxis

- Must be taken within 72 hours of exposure
- Must be taken for 28 days
- Must be HIV-
- Return for HIV test after 4 week medication completion
Resource links

- prep4illinois.com
- gileadadvancingaccess.com/financial-support/government-insurance
- prep4love.com
- pleaserepme.org
Step 4: Deliver Test Results
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

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2. Prepare for and conduct the rapid HIV test
3. Conduct brief risk screening
4. Deliver result
5. Develop a care, treatment, and prevention plan based on test result
6. Summarize and close session
Guidelines for Delivering Test Results

Assess Readiness

Provide Test Result Promptly

Interpret meaning of results

Risk Reduction Plan or Refer to Additional Services
Client-centered Counseling Techniques

- The Client is in Charge / Control
- Feelings as important as information
- Respect the client’s choices
- Remain non-judgmental
- Ask before touching
Delivering Posttest: Negative Result

Read / obtain the test result

You Pause

Disclose the result

“Your test result was negative.”

PAUSE

Allow Client to Process

Assess patient’s reaction

“How do you feel about the results?”
Posttest: Positive Result

Read / obtain the test result
- You Pause

Disclose the result
- “Your test result is a preliminary positive.”

PAUSE
- Allow Client to Process

Assess patient’s reaction
- “How do you feel about the results?”
Step 5: Develop a care, Treatment, and/or Prevention Plan based on test result
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

1. Introduce and orient the client to the session
2. Prepare for and conduct the rapid HIV test
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6. Summarize and close session
Posttest Negative Result

- Review Meaning of Results
- Explain the possible need for retesting (i.e.: window period)
- Reinforce risk reduction strategies
- Answer questions/offfer referrals as needed
Posttest: Negative Result
Dialogue Examples

- **Review meaning of result**
  
  “Tell me, what does a negative result mean?”

- **Possible need for retesting**
  
  “Remember, it can take up to 2 weeks (or 12 weeks) for the test to detect HIV. So we recommend you come back for another test in (time frame). How do you feel about that?”
Posttest: Negative Result
Dialogue Examples

- Reinforce **risk reduction** options
  “What’s your plan to protect yourself until then?”

- Answer **questions**/offer **referrals** as needed
  “What questions do you have …?”
Posttest Positive Results

- Offer emotional support as needed
- Explain need for confirmatory testing
- Discuss Partner Services & Disclosure
- Advise to access care and treatment for HIV
- Answer questions
Posttest: Positive Result
Dialogue Examples

- **Offer emotional support** as needed
  - Validate the client’s feelings
  - Assess emotional stability / coping

  “What are your plans when you leave?”
  “Who can you turn to for support?”

- **Confirmatory Testing**
  “A preliminary positive means we found antibodies for HIV in your blood, but we will need to do a lab test to confirm the results. This may take several days to get the results back.”
Posttest: Positive Result

Disclosure
• Tester MUST report test results to the city
• Person with HIV can decide whether or not to disclose to friends/family/partners

Partner Services
• Confidentially notify partners of infected persons
Posttest: Positive Result
Dialogue Examples

- **Advise** accessing care to treat HIV
- “I would like to follow up with you about the next steps in your care plan. Is that okay? When is the best time I can reach you?”
Talking in circles…
Step 6: Refer and link with medical care, social, and behavioral services
6 Steps of Risk Targeted HIV Testing

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6. Summarize and close session
Step 6: Posttest: Negative Result

- Develop Care Plan
- Provide referrals & linkages
- Answer questions
Types of Referrals and Linkages
Negative Result

- nPEP
- PrEP
- Retesting
- High Impact Behavioral Interventions
- Family Planning
- Mental Health Support
- Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse Services/housing, etc…
Step 6: Posttest: Positive Result

1. Provide referral to medical care or collect a specimen for confirmatory test
2. Answer questions
3. Schedule a follow-up appointment for confirmatory results and a phone check-in
Types of Referrals and Linkages Positive Result

- Follow up testing
- HIV Care & Treatment
- Partner Services
- Medication Adherence
- STI Screening & treatment prevention for positives
- Mental Health Support
- Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse Services, Housing, etc…
Summarize & Close

Closure summarizes the client’s has agreement to behavioral changes and the counselor’s means of supporting them in making the agreed upon changes.
Questions?