Rapid HIV Testing
in the Emergency Department
Don’t Miss the Diagnosis!

CDC Recommendations
- Offer HIV testing to all people between ages of 13 and 64
- Pre-test counseling in conjunction with HIV testing should not be required
- Separate written informed consent no longer recommended *(see your state laws)
- HIV testing is still always voluntary and confidential

Medical Rationale for New Recommendations
- Patients want to be tested for HIV
- HIV treatment is available and more effective when given earlier in the course of the disease
- Patients are more likely to accept HIV testing when healthcare providers recommend it
- Many people with HIV are getting health care but are not diagnosed until they have symptoms
- An HIV diagnosis can change your treatment
- Risk-based HIV testing misses half the infected people
- Rapid HIV tests are quick and reliable

Here is some proposed language...
“I recommend HIV testing to all of my patients and it’s a good idea to be tested regularly. Unless you say no, we’ll do the test today”

Where do I get more information?
†

* See the National HIV/AIDS Clinicians’ Consultation Center’s compendium of state HIV testing laws, available at: http://www.nccc.ucsf.edu/

François-Xavier Bagnoud Center
School of Nursing, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey