



Delivering Rapid HIV Test Results in the Emergency Department

SCOTT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 2016

Routine HIV Screening in the SMH Emergency Department

- ▶ Beginning in summer 2016, SMH will provide routine rapid HIV testing to all eligible patients 18 or older in the emergency department
- ▶ This program will be a shared effort between ED nursing staff, laboratory staff, ED physicians, the Scott County Health Department, local Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS), and the Indiana State Department of Health
- ▶ As a physician in the ED, your role with this program will be to provide all rapid HIV test results and assist patients with questions, concerns, and appropriate follow-up, as needed

Why is routine screening for HIV important?

- ▶ The CDC has recommended that HIV testing be a part of regular medical care in health care settings, including emergency departments, since 2006
- ▶ Risk-based HIV testing doesn't always work well because people may not disclose their risks, or they may not perceive themselves as being at risk for HIV infection
- ▶ Many patients may rely on the hospital as their primary source of medical care
- ▶ Many patients that could benefit from HIV testing may not seek it out on their own
- ▶ Early diagnosis and initiation of care benefits patients and the community – patients can begin treatment sooner, stay healthier longer, and reduce their risk of transmitting the virus to others
- ▶ Due to the recent HIV outbreak, Scott County and surrounding areas can especially benefit from more opportunities for HIV testing

HIV Testing Recommendations

- ▶ HIV testing is recommended as follows:
 - ▶ At least once in a lifetime for everyone
 - ▶ At least once per year for people who engage in any HIV risk behaviors or live in communities with higher rates of HIV infection
 - ▶ Every 3 months for people who are at highest risk for HIV infection (people who share injection equipment, have unprotected sex regularly, have known partners with HIV infection, etc.)

Rapid HIV Test Result Outcomes

▶ REACTIVE

- ▶ A reactive test indicates that the patient is preliminary positive for HIV infection. The rapid result is considered preliminary because it must be confirmed with additional testing.

▶ NON-REACTIVE

- ▶ A non-reactive test indicates that the patient is likely not infected with HIV because the test did not detect any HIV antibodies. However, if the patient was recently infected, the test may not react due to the pace of antibody development.

▶ INVALID

- ▶ An invalid test indicates a problem with the specimen collection, test processing, or test device. In this rare instance, a new test should be run.

Delivering a Reactive Test Result

- ▶ **Ensure confidentiality**
 - ▶ This may mean asking a guest to leave the room or getting the patient's permission for them to stay
- ▶ **Provide the test result clearly and simply**
 - ▶ "Your rapid HIV test was positive."
 - ▶ "Your rapid HIV test result came back preliminary positive."
 - ▶ "Your HIV test was reactive."
- ▶ **Explain what the result means in simple terms**
 - ▶ "This means that you are most likely infected with HIV."
- ▶ **Allow the patient to react and respond to their immediate needs**
 - ▶ This could mean being silent, answering questions, or being supportive in some other way– avoid overloading the patient with information at this time

Delivering a Reactive Test Result Cont.

- ▶ **Emphasize the need for confirmatory testing, being careful not to give false hope that the rapid test result is incorrect**
 - ▶ “We have one more step to confirm that you have HIV. The rapid test is very accurate, so we can talk about what happens next right now.”
- ▶ **Explain the importance of receiving the confirmatory test results**
 - ▶ Ensure the patient understands that a DIS will be following up with them to provide the test results, discuss partner services, and make all necessary referrals. Ask about and document essential contact and locating information to facilitate the DIS follow-up.
- ▶ **Address Indiana’s “Duty to Warn” law for people living with HIV**
 - ▶ Indiana law requires all people infected with HIV to: notify past sex and/or needle sharing partners of their possible exposure to HIV so they can be tested; notify current and future sex and/or needle sharing partners before engaging in any type of sex or needle sharing; avoid donating anything from their body, including but not limited to blood, plasma, organs, and semen.

Delivering a Reactive Test Result Cont.

- ▶ **Briefly discuss personal risk reduction and protecting partners**
 - ▶ Make sure the patient understands how HIV is transmitted and what they can do to help protect themselves and others from infections
- ▶ **Assure the patient that there are many resources to help support people living with HIV**
 - ▶ Based on the patient's needs, resources including case management, insurance/medication assistance, housing and basic needs assistance, mental health services, substance abuse services, and others can be discussed
 - ▶ If patient is overly distressed or concerned about partners, immediate referral to DIS and/or other services may be warranted

Delivering a Non-Reactive Test Result

- ▶ **Ensure confidentiality**
- ▶ **Provide the test result clearly and simply**
 - ▶ “Your rapid HIV test result was non-reactive, or negative.”
- ▶ **Explain what the result means in simple terms**
 - ▶ “This means that as of today, you aren’t showing signs of HIV infection.”
 - ▶ “This means that the test did not detect HIV antibodies in your body.”

Delivering a Non-Reactive Test Result Cont.

- ▶ **Emphasize that the result is based on exposure that likely occurred at least 3 months prior to the test (the “window period”)**
 - ▶ “This result means that as of 3 months ago, you were not infected with HIV. However, this test may not be accurate if you’ve had a possible exposure in the last 3 months.”
 - ▶ “If you have been infected with HIV very recently, there is a chance that the infection was not detected by this test. This means that you could be infected with HIV even though your test result is negative. If you have done anything in the last 3 months that could put you at risk for HIV, it is very important that you get tested again soon.”
- ▶ **Allow client to react and respond to their immediate needs**
- ▶ **Briefly discuss personal risk reduction and protecting partners**
- ▶ **Encourage future testing - relevant to the window period or routine testing**

Support for Rapid HIV Test Result Delivery

- ▶ Each patient that chooses to be tested for HIV in the ED should receive a sheet that provides them with information about HIV and testing prior to being tested
- ▶ To assist ED physicians with delivering test results, the back of this information sheet features the important information relevant for both reactive and non-reactive test results
- ▶ The next two slides display the test results information found on the patient information sheet

If your test result is reactive (preliminary positive):

1. This test result means you are most likely infected with HIV.
2. A blood sample will be sent to a lab to confirm your test results. A Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) will contact you to give you the final test result and talk about important next steps, including partner notification and medical treatment.
3. Early medical care is important when you are infected with HIV. Talk to a doctor as soon as possible about managing HIV, even if a DIS does not contact you right away.
4. Indiana law requires all people infected with HIV to: notify past sex and/or needle sharing partners of their possible exposure to HIV so they can be tested; notify current and future sex and/or needle sharing partners before engaging in any type of sex or needle sharing; avoid donating anything from their body, including but not limited to blood, plasma, organs, and semen.
5. If you are infected with HIV, you can spread the virus to others, and you will be at greater risk for other infections, like STDs. You can help protect yourself and others by using condoms during sex and avoiding sharing needles.
6. There are resources to help support people living with HIV. You can learn more about these resources from a DIS, an HIV Care Coordinator, or other HIV providers.

If your test result is non-reactive (negative):

1. This test result means you are most likely not infected with HIV.
2. If you have been infected with HIV very recently (in the last 3 months), there is a chance that the infection will not be detected by this test. This means that you could be infected with HIV even though your test result is negative. If you have done anything in the last 3 months that could put you at risk for HIV, it is very important that you talk to your provider about getting tested again at the right time.
3. Reduce your risk for becoming infected with HIV by using condoms during sex and avoiding sharing needles.
4. Get tested for HIV regularly so that you always know your HIV status.

**For more information about HIV testing, or for free testing, contact the
Scott County Health Department at 812-752-8455**

Conclusion

- ▶ Questions? Concerns? Need more training or supplementary content?

Contact **Ashley Sherrow** with the Indiana State Department of Health
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Thank you for providing this invaluable service in your community!