

HIV Test Counseling

A dark blue diagonal gradient bar that starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top right, covering the lower half of the slide.

Role of the HIV Test Counselor

Volunteer testing team members are committed to providing confidential and compassionate HIV testing and counseling. We do this through:

- ★ Providing a safe place to learn their HIV status and learn about HIV and prevention practices;
- ★ Providing relevant recommendations, resources, and referrals;
- ★ Providing quick and direct access to HIV care for those who do test preliminary positive.

The Testing and Counseling Process



Step 1: Introduce Yourself

Hi, my name is

_____ and I'm going
to be your test counselor
today.

I use _____ pronouns.

What is your name?

Step 2: Consent and Pre- Test Counseling

“Before we begin, I need to get your permission to do the test...”

You will summarize the information they need to know before signing giving consent to be tested, including:

1. Type of test to be conducted
2. HIV Testing is confidential, and a reactive result on this test will be reported to their county health department.
3. Which fluids transmit HIV
4. The benefits of taking the test
5. The potential risks of taking the test
6. They can request a written copy of the results.

After you have reviewed this information, you will both sign and date the document. You will also print your name underneath your signature.

Step 3: Complete Demographics and Test History Assessment

Tips and Tricks:

- ★ Write legibly.
- ★ A P.O. Box is NOT an address
- ★ Be able to explain the difference between *sex assigned at birth* and *gender identity*
- ★ Last 4 of SSN is OK, but it's better to get the whole thing
- ★ A specific date is not necessary to answer the question about when the client's last test was. A time frame is sufficient (i.e. 2 weeks, 4 months, about a year ago, etc.)

Step 4: Administer the Test

- ★ Collect the specimen
- ★ Add the specimen to Vial 1, cap the vial and mix the specimen into the media through inversion.
 - ★ This is a great time to bandage the client's finger, if desired.
- ★ Empty the contents of Vial 1 into the test membrane
- ★ After Vial 1 has been absorbed completely, empty the contents of Vial 2 into the test membrane.
- ★ After Vial 2 has been absorbed completely, empty the contents of Vial 3 into the test membrane.
- ★ After Vial 3 has been absorbed completely, read, interpret, and share the test result.

Step 5: Read and Record the Results

- ★ INSTI results can be read immediately following complete absorption of the contents of Vial 3 and should be read no longer than 5 minutes after complete absorption.
- ★ **Circle the appropriate test result on the form**

Step 6: Results and Post- Test Counseling

UAB MEDICINE
1917 CLINIC
INSTI • HIV 1/2 Antibody Test Results

Name: _____ Date: _____

Result: _____

Signature: _____

☐ Reactive/Preliminary Positive

☐ Non-Reactive/Negative

Tested By: _____

UAB 1917 Clinic
908 20th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35205
Phone: 205-975-9103

- ★ Give clear, calm, and non-judgemental results to the client
- ★ Explain what the dot(s) on the test means
- ★ If desired, complete the Test Results section at the bottom of the testing form
 - ★ Tear or cut this section off and provide it to the client.
 - ★ The client should sign their name in the signature space.
 - ★ The test administrator only needs to write their name in the Tested By space.
- ★ Answer any final questions and review their next steps
 - If negative - how do they plan to prevent HIV in the future? (Time permitting)
 - If preliminary positive - initiate the linkage to care process (contact an LRC at 6-0155)

Step 7: Paperwork and Self-Care

- ★ Before you file the form away in it's appropriate place, review it!
 - Make sure you've signed and dated
 - Make sure you circled the results
 - Make sure ALL the blanks are filled and legible
- ★ After everything is done, take a minute to reflect on the experience
 - Take a few deep breaths
 - Seek out a trusted and compassionate person if you need to debrief
 - Evaluate your strengths and any areas that need improvement