

Planning Assessment

Once assembled, the planning team should consider the following questions in developing a relevant approach, working toward consensual agreement upon the best system for your objectives:

- Which type of HIV test best suits our needs and capabilities? (e.g., standard or rapid, type of rapid test)

- How will patients be identified as eligible for HIV testing? By whom?

- Which ED staff will obtain informed consent from the patient?

- Where will specimens be collected?

- If using rapid testing, will tests be performed point-of-care or sent to the laboratory? If performed point-of-care, where will the testing be performed?

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- Which ED staff will collect the specimen and/or perform point-of-care tests?

- How will testing information be documented in the medical records?

- What training should be required of staff?

- How can your hospital maintain patient confidentiality?

- What protocol should exist for reactive (positive) rapid HIV test results? What should be communicated to these patients while confirmatory tests are conducted?

- What follow-up procedures should be in place for patients who test positive?

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- How will HIV cases be reported to the health department?

- How will your ED monitor the implementation of routine HIV testing? (i.e., number of patients seen in the facility, number of patients offered testing, number of patients who accept, are tested, receive results, etc.)

- How will your hospital monitor outcomes? (e.g., newly diagnosed HIV infections)
