

Offering an HIV test: *as part of routine care*

Useful phrases for bringing up HIV testing

We include an HIV test in our new patient check for everyone because an HIV test is recommended as part of routine care and we wouldn't want to miss anyone. **Is that OK?**

There is a lot of undiagnosed HIV in BC; we are now offering routine HIV tests as it's better to know your status...

I routinely offer and recommend an HIV test for *all* my patients and would like to add that to your blood tests today...

We are now offering HIV testing routinely because undiagnosed HIV can do a lot of damage and we know the infection responds so well to treatment. Although it's unlikely that you have HIV I recommend this test for everyone...

But doctor – I don't really think I need to have an HIV test...

HIV testing is now recommended for everyone. You can lead by example by getting your HIV test done as a part of routine care. It may not save your life but it may inspire someone else and save theirs...

The Medical Health Officer recommends that everyone have an HIV test. I also think it's important, and so I recommend this test for all of my patients...

Offering an HIV test: **patients with higher risk**

Useful phrases for bringing up HIV testing

It's recommended that anyone who has ever had sex should have an HIV test. **May I add that test to your other STI tests today?**

Current advice is that everyone who has injected drugs in the past should be offered a test for HIV, because this condition responds so well to treatment...

I would always recommend chlamydia and HIV tests, as you may have been at risk of these infections too – and they are treatable....

All pregnant women are automatically offered a test for HIV – however we think it's better to have this information before you get pregnant. **Would you like a test?**

Neither of us knows enough about your past partners' risk behaviours, or other past partners... We recommend an HIV test because HIV is a manageable, chronic disease, but it is best to diagnose long before people show any signs or symptoms...

Offering an HIV test: **patients with signs/symptoms of infection**

Useful phrases for bringing up HIV testing

Illnesses like this are usually caused by viruses, for example 'mono' or flu. Some quite rare viruses can also be a cause, and it is important that I don't miss them if they occur. I don't know if you are at risk, but HIV is one of these. **May I add that to your tests?**

The problems that you have had recently are quite common, and usually minor. However, very occasionally they can give a clue that your immune system is not working as well as it should. I'd like to do a few tests, HIV is one of them...

I don't know if you are at risk of HIV, but this is one condition that can affect the immune system. I'd like to add that to your tests today if you don't mind....

From what you tell me you are quite unlikely to have HIV but I think it would be wise to do a test anyway so that we can be sure....