

HIV Testing and Collection Policy

Policy

HIV antibody testing may be performed for the purpose of making a diagnosis of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or AIDS-related complex (ARC), answering a patient's curiosity about whether he/she is infected, screening blood or organs or other body substances prior to donation, or conducting a follow-up after a potential exposure to HIV has occurred.

Extreme sensitivities associated with HIV testing demand that informed consent be obtained, counseling provided for patient, and confidentiality of HIV status be maintained.

Procedure

- When a physician orders an HIV antibody test, he/she should counsel patient regarding the purpose of the test, its accuracy and reliability, describe the way in which test results may affect patient's care, and review personal significance of test prior to testing.
- Physician should acquire the "Consent for the HIV Antibody Blood Test" consent form, and obtain signed informed consent after counseling patient. If consent is not signed prior to collection, the phlebotomist should provide a consent form and instruct patient read and sign consent.
- This form should become a permanent part of patient's record. A signed consent form on file at the doctor's office is acceptable.