

Routine HIV Testing Script

According to 2006 CDC Guidelines for HIV Testing, we test all patients for HIV. Do you have any questions?

Possible Questions Patients May Ask - Do I have to be tested?

Response: You have the right to decline the test, but HIV infection is a serious health disorder that can be diagnosed before symptoms develop.
What are your concerns about the test?

Other information to share with patients to educate them about the importance of knowing their HIV status includes:

The identification of HIV infection earlier in the disease process leads to:

- Greater response to treatment [Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART)].
- Treatment is accessible and is more beneficial when begun *before* symptoms develop.
- HAART reduces the viral load and lowers the risk of transmission of HIV.
- Early identification leads to improved quality of life.
- HIV+ patients have years of life to gain if treatment is initiated early.
- If Patient **accepts** testing, order the HIV screen.
- If Patient still **declines** testing, document in health/medical record.