

HIV Counseling



Required at all study visits

- Pre-test counseling
- Post-test counseling
- Risk reduction counseling
- Condom Provision

Will you incorporate risk-reduction counseling before or after the test results are given?

Will the same person conduct pre- and post-test counseling?



Pre-test counseling

- Review difference between HIV and AIDS
- Review modes of HIV transmission and methods of prevention
- Review HIV tests to be done today and tests to be done if today's tests indicate possible infection
- Review window period and how it may affect test results
- Correct any misconceptions or myths
- Verify readiness for testing



A Better Question

Do you know how HIV is passed from one person to another?



Risk Reduction Counseling

- Assess risk
- Discuss changes in risk since last visit
- Probe on factors associated with higher versus lower risk
- Discuss previous month's risk reduction plan
- Develop risk reduction strategies moving forward



A Better Question

Do any of these risk factors apply to you?



Partner counseling and testing

- *What are your site policies and procedures regarding partner counseling and testing?*
- *If partners want counseling and testing, will they be provided to the participant and her partner as a couple or as individuals?*



Post-test Counseling

- Explain test results
- Describe any additional testing that may be required
- Assess client understanding
- Provide further information and counseling relevant to client's test results

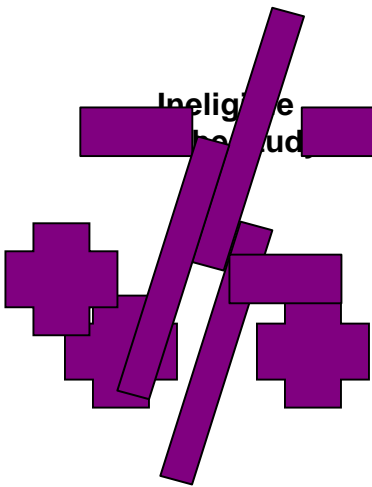


A Better Question

Do you understand what your test results mean?

HIV Algorithm: Screening and Enrollment

1. Test results are unclear.
2. Further testing is needed to determine your HIV status.
3. [Sites to perform additional testing and associated counseling per local standards of care and as directed by the NL to confirm diagnosis as specified in site SOPs.]
4. Participant is not eligible for MTN-020 enrollment at this time. If this is her first screening attempt and further testing determines participant is HIV-uninfected, she may re-screen (will have to repeat all Screening and Enrollment visit procedures other than PTID assignment).



HIV Algorithm: Follow-up

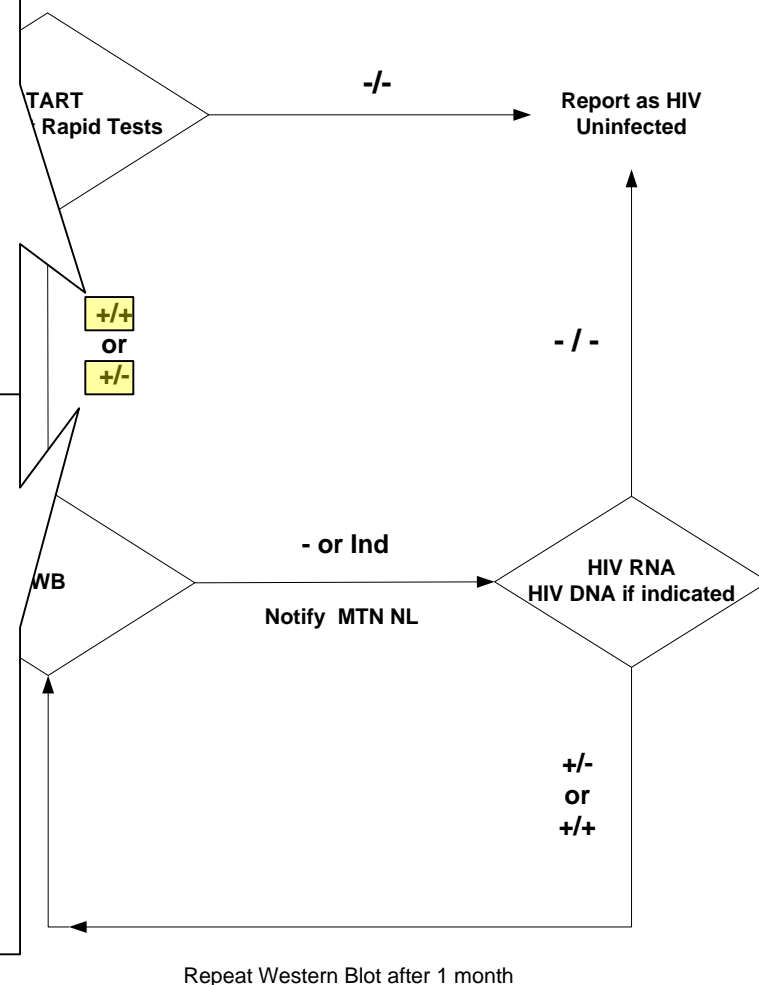
3. Additional testing is needed for study purposes and to see how your body is responding to the virus. This additional testing will be done from a new blood sample.
4. The additional testing is done to follow the rules of the study, even though this may differ from your country's HIV testing algorithm.
5. It is common for HIV prevention studies to do additional testing in this situation.

2. Additional testing is needed.

3. The additional testing may show whether you are infected with HIV or not. This additional testing will be done from a new blood sample.

4. You may need to give blood for testing more than once for your status to be known.

5. We expect these additional results to be available [INSERT TIME FRAME].



At what point in the algorithm do you begin counseling the participant that she is HIV (+)?

Interpretation of HIV Tests Performed During Follow-up

Per Protocol Appendix III

Test Result	Status	Counseling Message
Western blot positive	HIV-infected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These test results confirm that you are infected with HIV. 2. [Follow-up on HIV care referral uptake per site SOPs]
Western blot negative or indeterminate AND HIV viral load negative (below limit of detection)	HIV-uninfected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test results show that you are not infected with HIV.
Western blot negative or indeterminate AND HIV viral load positive (above limit of detection) or indeterminate	HIV status not clear	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test results show that you are probably infected with HIV. 2. Additional testing is needed to confirm your HIV infection. 3. [Provide post-test counseling and referrals or follow-up on referrals previously provided as per site SOPs.] 4. This additional testing will be done from a new blood sample. This testing will occur <i>[provide date – testing should occur about 1 month after her positive rapid test(s), or when advised by Network Lab]</i>. 5. It is common for HIV prevention studies to do additional testing in this situation. 6. It is unusual for the additional testing to show a different result.



Next steps

- *How might a risk reduction plan change based on the HIV test results?*
- *What are the next steps for participants who test HIV (+)?*
- *What are the next steps for pregnant participants who test HIV (+)?*

Tools

□ Interpretation of HIV test results reference sheets

□ HIV Counseling Worksheet

Sample MTN-020 HIV and Risk Reduction Counseling Worksheet

PTID:

Visit Month:

General

- Greet client and establish rapport
- Review purpose and nature of today's session
- Emphasize confidentiality
- Address any immediate issues or concerns

HIV Education and Pre-Test Counseling

- Review difference between HIV and AIDS
- Review modes of HIV transmission and methods of prevention
- Review HIV tests to be done today and tests to be done if today's tests indicate possible infection
- Review window period and how it may affect test results
- Correct any misconceptions or myths
- Verify readiness for testing

Risk Reduction Counseling

- Use open-ended questions to assess client's HIV risk factors
- Discuss whether risk factors have changed since the last visit
- Probe on factors associated with higher versus lower risk (e.g., what was different about the times when you were able to use a condom compared to times when you were not?)
- Discuss previous month's risk reduction plan and develop risk reduction strategies with the participant moving forward

HIV Post-Test Counseling

- Provide and explain test results, per protocol appendices II and III
- Explain additional testing that may be required per protocol
- Assess client understanding of results and next steps
- Provide further information and counseling relevant to client's test results per site SOP

Documentation Instructions: *Notes documenting counseling discussions should be recorded below (continuing on the opposite side if needed). Include any questions raised about HIV and HIV testing discussed with the participant. Document the participant's personal risk factors for HIV exposure, experiences with the risk reduction strategies employed since the last visit, any barriers to risk reduction, and a risk reduction plan for the coming month. Include documentation of participant understanding of HIV test results and next steps. Initial and date after each entry.*

Counseling Notes:



Documentation

- Should occur *after* the counseling session.
- Use chart notes or HIV counseling worksheets.

What information is important to document for each aspect of HIV counseling?



Practice
