



Module: Performing the INSTI HIV Rapid Screening Test



Allow 20 minutes, if presenting this module as part of a full day training (plus 30-minute practice testing session)

This module describes the use of the INSTI HIV Rapid Screening Test. Its use should be coupled with practical training on collecting samples and performing the test. No individual should begin working with clients, even in a supervised way, with having practiced both sample collection and the test itself.

The Training Slides (15 minutes)

Present the slide deck (rapid_testing_final.pptx) to your trainee group, or have an individual trainee read and review it. If you are presenting the slides, points to consider while presenting are available in the notes section of the slide.

Follow-up Discussion with Trainees

If you are not presenting this material to a group, you should sit down with your trainee(s) to review this material and anything they do not understand. Make sure to invite questions, and ensure that they know and understand the following:

- HIV testing outside a lab does not reduce the necessary standards around quality control and record keeping; these are an important part of their job.
- The science they learned about the previous unit dictates the limits of when the test can detect HIV; for routine testing rapid testing is highly accurate. Most people whose tests are reactive will be confirmed as HIV-positive.
- Universal precautions and careful disposal of waste is part of maintaining the quality of testing at your site, and of protecting your employees. Make sure they know how to dispose of different elements of the test, and where to find gloves, sharps containers and all of the materials they need for testing. Also review what to do when waste containers are full!
- Talk about the process of testing at your specific site, i.e. in front of the client or not, and what to do if they need a consult from another tester to read a result
- Understanding the science of how the test works is not critical, what is critical is that if the top spot is not blue, the test did not work!
- People are typically apprehensive about hurting people with the finger stick and even more apprehensive about phlebotomy, that is why practice blood draws are a must. Make sure you make time for this, and their practice subject is OK with the testing.
- Trainees typically do not have great difficulty with the steps of the test, however everyone makes mistakes. If they think they did some wrong, it is OK to start over. The system plans for the reality of testing errors and discarded tests.
- There is a laminated card with images of completed tests to help them see how different test outcomes might appear. Encourage them to use this aid as reference and review it with them.
- Encourage trainees to watch the bioLytical training video at <https://youtu.be/7wp1AEVIm50>, before practicing the blood draw. It provides helpful detail



Interactive Learning (30 minutes)

Blood Draw

Have trainees partner up with a colleague to practice the blood draw and pipetting process. This is frequently the most anxiety producing part for a new tester. Make sure adequate biohazard disposal is available to discard pipettes and blood. This is also a good opportunity to re-inforce lessons about universal precautions and appropriate waste disposal.

In most cases, clinics will also be teaching new trainees, phlebotomy skills so that they can complete the standardized testing with their clients. If this is the case, use this opportunity to practice phlebotomy as well. All samples collected through this practice session should be safely discarded!

Practice testing

Aim to have at least one kit available for each individual training. Use the quality controls or any available proficiency testing samples so that each new trainee can go through the process of using the testing membrane at least once. Use the laminated reference card as a guide for interpreting test results. Talk about the sample tests shown on the card and your experiences with difficult to read tests.

Phlebotomy (Drawing Blood for Standard Testing) – At any site where rapid HIV testing is done, staff must also have capacity to draw blood for standard laboratory testing. If you are training staff without the existing capacity to do this work, it is essential that you also plan how they will receive phlebotomy training. Many Ontario community colleges offer certificate programs (1-2 day workshops) in phlebotomy if needed.

Testing Knowledge (15 minutes)

For rapid test counsellors who work without a second tester present (at an outreach site for example), the Ministry recommends that participants successfully interpret a minimum of 25 rapid testing results, including the practice testing just completed, the quality control testing done by sites on their supply of tests, and any supervised testing done at the site.

To further extend trainee's knowledge and experience with possible test results, the rapid test interpretation quiz is an opportunity to view and interpret 20 additional result images.

- The quiz will be available to you as an online testing module. The system will capture the participant's score in reviewing results.
- After the trainee has completed the test on their own, they should review the outcome with their supervisor or another mentor from your team, and discuss any incorrect results. Make sure that the trainee, would know how to interpret these slides.