New York State Law requires, at a minimum, a one-time offer of an HIV test to all patients 13 years or older receiving primary care services... but clinically, that is not enough!

**HIV RISK CHANGES, TEST REGULARLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Indications</th>
<th>Routine Screening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Whenever <strong>STI screening</strong> is done on a patient who is not known to have HIV</td>
<td>➢ <strong>Every 3-5 years for all sexually active individuals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ <strong>Pregnancy</strong></td>
<td>➢ <strong>Every year if the patient or their partner:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• at the 1st prenatal visit</td>
<td>• is sexually active &amp; has had condomless anal or vaginal sex with a new partner since the patient’s most recent HIV test</td>
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<tr>
<td>• during the 3rd trimester</td>
<td>• has had <em>new</em> STI within the last 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ <strong>Tuberculosis (TB)</strong></td>
<td>➢ <strong>Every 3-6 months if the patient or their partner:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TB infection</td>
<td>• is a man who is gay, bi-sexual or has sex with men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• suspected TB</td>
<td>• injects non-prescription drugs/hormones/cosmetic fillers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Suspected Acute HIV (AHI) – persistent flu-like symptoms starting 1-4 weeks following a potential HIV exposure</td>
<td>• exchanges sex for money/drugs/housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• has a sex partner living with HIV whose viral load is greater than 200 copies/mL³ or not known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For patients on PrEP or if acute HIV is suspected, laboratory-based HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab testing is recommended. For more information on HIV testing, PrEP or Acute HIV go to [www.hivguidelines.org](http://www.hivguidelines.org/)

**HIV TESTING OPTIONS:**

Serum or Plasma-based HIV Antigen/Antibody (HIV Ag/Ab) Tests conducted in a laboratory are the most sensitive HIV screening tests. If phlebotomy is being performed, use a laboratory-based HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab combination test. If phlebotomy is not possible and/or rapid result is beneficial, use a fingerstick to obtain whole blood for rapid test.

**Point of Care (POC) Rapid Tests** - NYSDOH does not recommend any specific POC HIV tests. The **Alere Determine** remains the only FDA approved POC test that detects HIV Ag and Ab. Other POC tests detect HIV 1/2 Ab only. All POC tests have high specificity and sensitivity when used with whole blood.

*Offer Rapid Initiation of ART (RIA) according to the RIA protocol to all newly diagnosed patients.*

**OFFICE-BASED HIV TESTING:**

1. Perform a POC HIV rapid test according to the manufacturer’s instructions *including* processing time.
2. Following one reactive rapid test, rapid initiation of ART (RIA) may be started according to the RIA protocol*.
3. A 2nd POC test of different technology/manufacturer may be done to increase confidence in starting RIA.
4. Always confirm reactive POC tests with a laboratory based diagnostic HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab assay with reflex.

* Baseline blood work and an HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab assay are drawn prior to the first dose of ART medication.

**CDC LABORATORY-BASED HIV DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHM** – what to order, how to interpret

1. Order an HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab combination assay *with reflex*
2. Always include “with reflex” so if indicated, additional recommended tests are conducted on the same specimen.
3. The complete report may include up to 3 separate test results if testing laboratory reports each step separately.
4. Review the algorithm reports to confirm that all reports are received, and no further testing is indicated.

**Step 1 HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab Screening Assay** (serum or plasma sample)

- Nonreactive specimens on a serum- or plasma-based test require no further testing.
- Reactive specimens reflex to Step 2 for a supplemental antibody differentiation immunoassay.

**Reflex Step 2 HIV-1/2 Ab Differentiation**

- If HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 antibodies are detected, the test is considered HIV positive. No further testing is indicated.
- If antibodies are not detected or the result is indeterminate, an HIV-1 RNA test is the next step.

**Reflex Step 3 HIV-1 RNA Assay**

- If HIV-1 RNA is detected, this result is consistent with acute or early HIV-1.
- If HIV-1 RNA is not detected and antibodies were not confirmed by the step 2 differentiation test, the interpretation is HIV negative. Interpret results within the context of the patient's overall clinical presentation.
- If HIV-1 RNA is not detected and the Ab differentiation result is HIV indeterminate or HIV-2 indeterminate, an HIV-2 RNA test may be needed. In NYS, call Wadsworth Laboratory at (518) 474-2163 for assistance.