

NCCC HIV TESTING VIGNETTES

Sample Warmline Calls on Performing Rapid and Standard HIV Testing, Interpreting and Disclosing Test Results, and Understanding State HIV Testing Laws.

- A physician from a small town in Iowa with little experience with HIV called the Warmline to seeking guidance on diagnosis, treatment, counseling, and other aspects of initial management of a 27-year-old woman who was possibly HIV-infected. The patient had returned home from college and graduate school earlier in the year to run her parents' small business. As part of a routine health care checkup with the family physician, an HIV test was obtained and the results returned positive. The caller asked whether a single test was sufficient to diagnose HIV, what other tests would be appropriate to obtain at this time, and whether treatment needed to be initiated. The Warmline clinician consulted with him on an immediate plan of action and offered to be available for any future follow-up.
- A nurse practitioner in a large metropolitan area in Ohio called the Warmline regarding a 41-year-old man she'd evaluated in an urgent care center. The man complained of flu-like symptoms for two days and was hoping to receive antibiotics. The examination was normal other than a low-grade fever. As part of the evaluation, a rapid HIV test was performed. It returned a positive result. The nurse practitioner asked the Warmline clinician what further evaluation was necessary at this time and how she should proceed with additional testing.
- A primary care physician called the Warmline to ask for clarification and interpretation of HIV tests. The caller's patient was a healthy 35-year-old woman with two teenage daughters. HIV testing during her second pregnancy returned a positive ELISA test and a negative Western Blot test, and she was told at that time that she did not have HIV. Routine HIV testing at the time of the call, however, showed a positive ELISA test and an indeterminate Western Blot test. The physician asked for an interpretation of the tests and what additional tests are required for this patient, who has no signs or symptoms of HIV disease.
- A nurse in a hypertension screening program in Missouri called the Warmline regarding a 17-year-old patient who had inquired about obtaining HIV testing. Specifically, the patient asked whether her parents needed to consent to the testing. The nurse wished to refer the patient for further testing, but wanted to know how she should advise the patient regarding her parents' involvement. She was not aware of the Missouri State laws regarding testing of minors. The Warmline clinician referred the nurse to the NCCC's State HIV Testing Laws Compendium and consulted with her on the proper course of action.

WARMLINE (National HIV Telephone Consultation Service): 1-800-933-3413

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST

Consultation on HIV testing, antiretroviral treatment options, drug interactions and toxicity, opportunistic infections, and primary care of persons with HIV/AIDS, exclusively for healthcare providers.