

## TOOLKIT for HIV opt-out testing in NHS 40+ Health Checks

In 2023, City & Hackney implemented a pilot to introduce opt-out HIV testing in NHS 40+ Health Checks (NHS HCs).

In this toolkit you can find practical guidance and information to use or adapt if you are considering this within your local authority.

Some key steps to consider:

### Partnership work

It will be a collaboration between (at least)

- Public Health
- Local GP Federation or similar body, including someone who can manage EMIS or clinical system used by GPs for recording NHS HCs
- Pathology/lab (test processing and setting up a 'test order' in the relevant system, e.g. TQUEST)
- Local HIV clinic and (where relevant) someone linked to the A&E BBV testing opt-out programme

*Suggestion:* set up a steering group including representation from all these stakeholders with around six to eight months lead time before you aim to go live.

Neighbouring LAs or ICB could also be included, as well as your local commissioned provider for HIV support, to ensure linkage with non-clinical care (e.g. newly diagnosed or re-diagnosis of people who had been lost to care).

### Governance

- Ensure approval by your senior management team, including sign off on financial commitment
- Prepare a service specification or contract variation to formalise the work

### Cost

Depending on how long you aim to run the pilot, or whether you are considering it as an immediate 'business as usual' approach, consider the cost. Take into consideration:

- Level of NHS HC uptake (with bloods taken) and expected number of HIV tests
- Cost of HIV testing (costing by your pathology service required)
- Cost of additional phlebotomy payments to practices in case this is not covered by your primary care/ICB phlebotomy contract
- Promotional materials (posters, leaflets, electronic assets). Fast Track Cities London can share assets/templates. Contact: [maria.vidal-read@nhs.net](mailto:maria.vidal-read@nhs.net) Any additional translations to be paid by the LA, or other source.

- Training (if relevant) either for time, materials, or a video that could be kept and shared.

*For context:* In C&H the expectation was to do 2200-2500 HIV tests as part of an NHS HC in 12 months. The cost per test is estimated at £7-9 but this would need to be checked and agreed with your local pathology service. Around £3k was spent on preparation, training, translations, print materials and distribution. Cost of additional phlebotomy £3-4 per bleed.

*Note:* If your LA is considering a BBV approach, as for the A&E opt-out programme, consider who would carry the cost of the Hep B and Hep C testing and link to care and treatment. The [national test price for Emergency Department Blood Borne Virus](#) opt out testing is £10.

### **Training** and 'socialisation' of the opt-out approach

- Ensure the people who are delivering NHS HCs are core to your training (nurses or Health Care Assistants)
- Ensure buy in and understanding of opt-out concept among all key staff
- Involve local HIV clinic and/or A&E opt-out liaison in your training, and/or a peer educator
- Use your lead time (six to eight months) to introduce the approach (e.g. practitioner's forum, GPs, Local Medical Council) and do training (nurses, HCAs)

### **Resources**

- [Guide for practices](#) implementing the pilot. This can be adapted for local context. With thanks to C&H IPC (formerly C&H GP Confederation) for making it available to share.
- [Flowchart of testing](#)
- [Training slides](#) for Health Care Assistants. This can be adapted for local context.
- [IPC monitoring of HIV screening rates](#)
- [Mini-spec](#). This can be adapted for local context.
- [Fail-safe pathway](#) for positive diagnosis.
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Evaluation Report Summary](#)
- [Presentation slides](#)

### **Promotional assets**

- [Leaflet](#)
- [Leaflet](#) for printing
- [Poster](#)
- [Electronic](#)
- [Translations](#)