

Testing Times:
A Community
Based Rapid HIV
Testing Service





Overview

- Primarily aimed at MSM
- Self referral
- Thursday evening drop-in clinic 6 - 7.30pm
- As and when service during the week (except Friday afternoon)

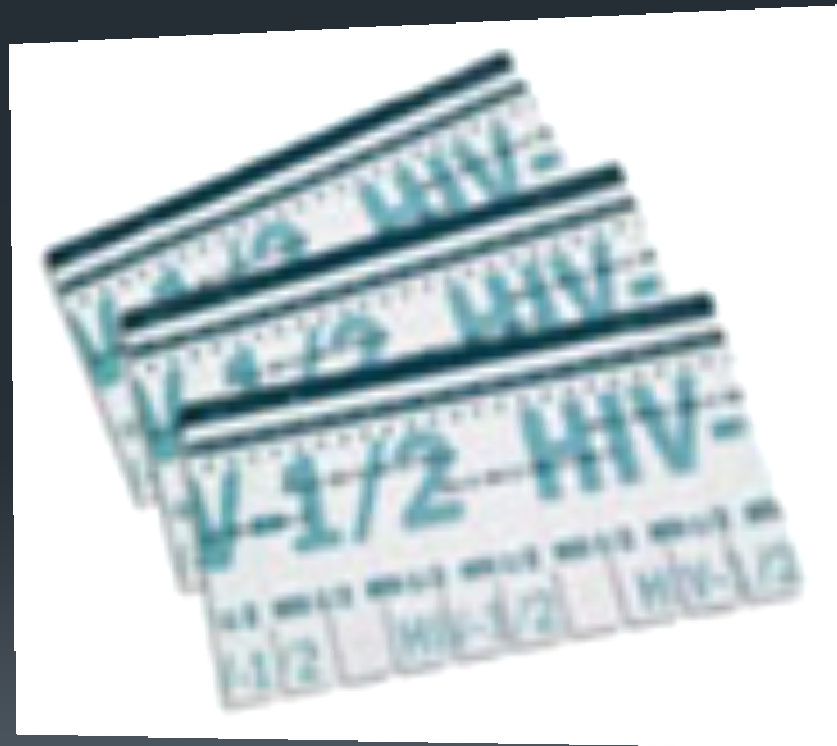
The Testing Experience?

Abbott Determine 4th generation Point of Care Test (POCT)

Finger Prick Test

Results in 20 minutes

Sensitivity and specificity are good though all reactive results must be confirmed by a level 3 specialist provider





A Testing Experience?

- Community based staff (non clinical) carry out the whole procedure
- Pre test discussion
- Administering the test
- Result giving
- Post test discussion
- Health Promotion
- Referrals



Why People Don't Test?

- Don't feel that they need to
- Fear of a positive result
 - Stigma
 - The law
 - Relationship issues
- Unaware of the benefits of earlier diagnosis
- Never been offered an HIV test

Drawbacks

Time

Limited range of tests on offer

Can lose people in the 'system'

Can be of limited benefit for
contact tracing

Distortion of epidemiology?



Benefits

Early diagnosis
Flexibility
Convenience
Confidential



Health Promotion





Referral to Other Services





3 Important Lessons

- Training, training, training
- Support for staff
 - Technical
 - Clinical
 - Emotional
- Clear referral pathways to level 3 specialist sexual health service and other services (e.g. mental health)



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