

## Counseling Messages for Patients with Preliminary Positive Test Results: The Meaning of the Positive Test Result and the Need for Further Testing

Low Seroprevalence Community	Counseling Message
Patient/client shares no identified risk	A very small number of people who are HIV negative may have a rapid test that is reactive (4 per 1000). So, a follow-up test is needed to tell for sure whether you have HIV or not. We will arrange for that test to be performed before you leave and we will have the results in __ days. As we discussed, the primary ways that people get HIV is through unprotected sex or sharing drug injection equipment with a person who has HIV. If you have not had one of these risks, then <b>there is a chance that this result could be a false positive.</b> But, if there are risks that you are not remembering, don't know, or that you just don't want to share, then <b>there is a chance that you could be infected.</b> The follow-up test will tell us for sure. Do you have any questions?
Patient/client identifies some risk	A very small number of people who are HIV negative may have a rapid test that is reactive (4 per 1000). So, a follow-up test is needed to tell for sure whether you have HIV or not. We will arrange for that test to be performed before you leave and we will have the results in __ days. Since you have shared with me that you have had some risk for HIV, <b>it is more likely that the preliminary test is correct</b> and that you have HIV. The follow-up test will tell us for sure. Do you have any questions?
Patient/client reports high risk	A very small number of people who are HIV negative may have a rapid test that is reactive (4 per 1000). So, a follow-up test is needed to tell for sure whether you have HIV or not. We will arrange for that test to be performed before you leave and we will have the results in __ days. Based on your risk factors, <b>it is very likely that the preliminary test result is correct</b> and that you have HIV. Do you have any questions?

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