

# PROTECTING PRIVACY RIGHTS: STRATEGIES FOR HIV INDEX TESTING IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

<p>≈880,000 women are currently living with HIV in Kenya</p>	<p>Women are more likely to experience coercive HIV index testing</p>
<p>Women and young girls in Kenya are significantly overrepresented in documented cases of HIV. This demographic is 1.5 times more susceptible to experiencing violence compared to women without a confirmed HIV status</p>	<p>Due to discriminatory sexual and reproductive health practices in Kenya, women and young girls are more likely to experience coerced HIV index testing. This practice contributes to medical mistrust and stigmatization among people living with HIV, creating additional barriers for this population to access healthcare</p>
<p>Healthcare providers play a critical role in the progressive realization of the highest attainable standard of health</p>	
<p>Protecting the right to privacy is an integral component to achieving the highest attainable standard of health. Healthcare providers must obtain informed consent for voluntary HIV index testing. Healthcare providers and institutions must also protect confidential patient information, both digitally and within the workplace</p>	
	<p>Privacy-centred HIV index testing will increase testing rates and treatment adherence</p>
	<p>Non-disclosure of HIV among women and young girls who have experienced index testing is predominantly due to stigma, discrimination, and confidentiality breaches. A privacy-centred approach to healthcare is set to increase voluntary testing rates as well as treatment adherence</p>
<p>Adhere to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 5C minimum standards for HIV index testing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consent</li> <li>2. Counseling</li> <li>3. Confidentiality</li> <li>4. Correct test results</li> <li>5. Connection to prevention and treatment</li> </ol>

## Non-discrimination

Provide equal access to HIV testing and treatment for all communities

## Accessible HIV testing

Advocate for affordable, accessible, and acceptable HIV index testing that is of high quality

## Consent & confidentiality

Obtain informed consent for HIV index testing - the patient must understand the purpose, benefits, and implications of providing consent. Protect identifiable patient information

## Pre-counseling

For young girls and women who consent to HIV index testing, discuss the testing and diagnostic procedures as well as the potential treatment requirements

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Strategies to help you

## Culture & religion

Discuss cultural and religious values that may impact access to HIV testing and treatment

## Family & partners

With consent, provide supportive HIV services to family members and partners

## Protect Privacy Rights & Improve Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

## Education

Provide sexual health education to young girls and women. Discuss access and use of contraceptives, family planning, and sexual violence

## Submit referrals

Ensure there is post-HIV index testing follow up. With consent, submit health and social service referrals. Consider youth-oriented referral services for young girls



## Exposed contacts

For young girls and women who consent to HIV index testing, ensure that there is timely follow up with exposed contacts. Do not place this responsibility on the patient

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