

PROTECTING PRIVACY RIGHTS

Strategies for HIV Index Testing in Healthcare Settings



880,000
women are currently
living with HIV in Kenya

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



Women are more likely to experience coercive HIV index testing

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

Healthcare providers play a critical role in the progressive realization of the highest attainable standard of health.

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.



Privacy-centred HIV index testing will increase testing rates and treatment adherence

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

Adhere to the World Health Organization's (WHO) 5C minimum standards for HIV index testing

1. Consent
2. Counseling
3. Confidentiality
4. Correct test results
5. Connection to prevention and treatment

9 strategies to help you protect privacy rights & improve access to sexual and reproductive health Services

1	Non-discrimination Provide equal access to HIV testing and treatment for all communities
2	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
3	Family & partners With consent, provide supportive HIV services to family members and partners
4	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
5	Accessible HIV testing Advocate for affordable, accessible, and acceptable HIV index testing that is of high quality
6	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
7	Culture & religion Discuss cultural and religious values that may impact access to HIV testing and treatment
8	Education Provide sexual health education to young girls and women. Discuss access and use of contraceptives, family planning, and sexual violence
9	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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