

## Key messages – healthcare workers

The following key messages have been developed to support you when communicating the benefits of HIV, hepatitis B and C testing to primary healthcare professionals, clinicians and healthcare managers in non-infectious disease hospital departments and general practices. The messages can be edited for local use to allow you to communicate HIV and/or hepatitis messages, as relevant according to your individual ETW programme.

### Overarching message

EuroTEST is calling on the European community to unite for **one week twice a year**, in Spring (**May**) and Autumn (**November**), to increase awareness regarding the benefits of HIV and hepatitis testing, so that more people become knowledgeable about their risks, understand that there is effective treatment available and are aware of their HIV and/or hepatitis status.

### Core messages

- In 2015, the ETW expanded to include not only HIV but also hepatitis due to high prevalence of co-infection and overlaps in key populations and/or common modes of transmission. This is because hepatitis B and C are transmitted in many of the same ways HIV is transmitted – through injection drug use and condomless sex  
It's better to know your status as soon as possible because today people living with HIV and/or hepatitis B can live well with a long-life expectancy when treatment starts early; and those with hepatitis C can be cured.

### Messages for primary healthcare professionals, clinicians and healthcare managers in non-infectious diseases hospital departments and general practices

- Help ensure you and your teams can effectively assess individuals for HIV and hepatitis testing by offering training on the risk-factors.
- When people are diagnosed with HIV and/or hepatitis late they are less likely to respond well to treatment and more likely to have health and treatment complications.
- A positive HIV or hepatitis test result requires that your patient is linked to appropriate care and treatment.
- HIV and/or hepatitis testing should be voluntary, confidential and offered in a wider range of settings than is presently available. Other settings may include healthcare and community-based settings and via outreach programmes by peers and/ or medical staff.
- Late diagnosis of HIV and/or hepatitis is more costly for the healthcare system.
- All patients presenting with and HIV indicator condition (for example hepatitis C & B (acute or chronic) or infectious mononucleosis-like illness) should be offered an HIV test.

**HIV specific**

- Research shows that 95% of people will accept an HIV test when offered by their healthcare professional, so there's no need to be ambivalent about talking about HIV and offering an HIV test in the same way you would offer other routine tests.
- Help ensure you and your teams can effectively assess individuals for HIV testing by offering training on the risk-factors.
- Help ensure that you and your teams are familiar with HIV indicator conditions. Patients presenting with HIV indicator conditions, including hepatitis C and B and infectious mononucleosis-like illness, should be offered an HIV test.
- When people are diagnosed with HIV late they are less likely to respond well to treatment and more likely to have health and treatment complications.
- A positive HIV test result requires that your patient is linked to appropriate care and treatment.
- HIV testing should be voluntary, confidential and offered in a wider range of settings than is presently available. Other settings may include healthcare and community-based settings and via outreach programmes by peers and/ or medical staff.
- Late diagnosis of HIV is more costly for the healthcare system.

**Hepatitis C & B specific**

- Help ensure you and your teams can effectively assess individuals for hepatitis testing by offering training on the risk-factors.
- When people are diagnosed with hepatitis late they are less likely to respond well to treatment and more likely to have health and treatment complications.
- A positive hepatitis test result requires that your patient is linked to appropriate care and treatment.
- Hepatitis testing should be voluntary, confidential and offered in a wider range of settings than is presently available. Other settings may include healthcare and community-based settings and via outreach programmes by peers and/or medical staff.
- Late diagnosis of hepatitis is more costly for the healthcare system.