

# Appendix 16 – Consent for Source Patient Testing Following a Blood/Body Fluid Exposure

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The source must express an understanding of the following:

- An individual has been exposed to the source's blood/body fluids.
- In order to assist in the care and management of the exposed person, the source will be asked a number of personal questions to assess if there is a risk for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS.
- A blood test is requested to determine if there is risk for the exposed person.
- The source's attending physician will inform them of the test results and arrange appropriate follow-up.
- Results of the risk assessment and blood test will be sent to the care providers of the exposed person (their attending physician in the Emergency Department, family physician and the Occupational Health/Employee Health Department [if it is health region employee involved in a workplace injury]). These care providers will notify the exposed person of the results so they can obtain necessary treatment and follow-up.
- Identifying information (name, date of birth, health services number) **will not** be shared with the exposed individual, nor with their family physician or the occupational health/employee health department.
- Identifying information **will** be shared with the MHO as a consultant in conducting the risk assessment.
- Physicians are required by *The Public Health Act, 1994* to report information including name, gender, age and risk factors to the MHO of positive tests. Current and past sexual/drug use partners of positive cases will be offered a test.

The source should also be provided with general information for informed consent which includes:

Testing process:

- description of HIV infection, transmission and the window period;
- meaning of positive and negative HIV test results;
- need for further testing based on risks.

Reasons to be tested:

- allows earlier access to services and care;
- helps people live longer healthier lives with treatment;
- helps people become actively involved in their own care;
- decreases worry about possible infection;
- helps prevent the spread of HIV to others.

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Other considerations:

- how the results will impact the client;
- support, assistance, care and treatment options are available and will be offered;
- how to contact the client when results are ready;
- assess risk factors and develop a plan to minimize potential for transmission while awaiting results; and
- the client has the right to refuse testing.

Consent is verbal, informed, voluntary and documented.