

# Routine HIV Testing Script

**According to 2006 CDC Guidelines for HIV Testing, we test all patients for HIV. Do you have any questions?**

**Possible Questions Patients May Ask - Do I have to be tested?**

**Response:** You have the right to decline the test, but HIV infection is a serious health condition that can be diagnosed before symptoms develop.  
What are your concerns about the test?

**Other information to share** with patients to educate them about the importance of knowing their HIV status includes:

The identification of HIV infection earlier in the disease process leads to:

- Greater response to treatment Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).
- Treatment is accessible and is more beneficial when begun *before* symptoms develop.
- ART reduces the viral load and lowers the risk of transmission of HIV.
- Early identification leads to improved quality of life.
- HIV+ patients have years of life to gain if treatment is initiated early.
  
- If Patient **accepts** testing, order the HIV screen.
- If Patient still **declines** testing, document in health/medical record.