



# **HIV Test in the Emergency Department**

This text is important information for you. This document explains:

- What HIV is.
- What the HIV test consists of.
- Why it is recommended in the Emergency Department.
- What your rights are.

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## **WHAT IS HIV?**

- HIV is a virus.
  - A virus is a very small organism that can cause diseases.
  - HIV affects the body's defenses.
  - The defenses protect your body from infections.
  - Today there is treatment for HIV.
  - With treatment, many people with HIV can live many years and have a good quality of life.
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## **HOW IS THE HIV TEST DONE?**

- The HIV test is simple.
- We only need a blood sample.
- If you have already had blood taken in the Emergency Department, there is no need for another needle. We use the same sample.
- The test is CONFIDENTIAL (this means that only healthcare staff can see the result) and FREE (you do not have to pay anything)

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## **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE TEST?**

- It is important to know the result as soon as possible.
- If the result is positive, you can start treatment early.
- Treatment improves your health.
- Treatment reduces the risk of transmitting the virus to other people.
- If the result is negative, you know that you do not have the virus at this moment. You can feel more reassured.

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## **WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIV AND SYPHILIS?**

- Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection.
  - A sexually transmitted infection is an infection that is transmitted through sexual contact.
  - HIV and syphilis are transmitted in the same way.
  - Having syphilis increases the risk of having HIV.
  - Therefore, if we suspect that you have syphilis, we will also perform the HIV test.
  - This is to better protect your health.
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## **WILL I BE GIVEN THE HIV TEST?**

- If in the Emergency Department you have a blood test due to a possible sexually transmitted infection, we will also perform the HIV test.
- We will do it using the same blood sample.
- You do not need to do anything else.
- This test is part of comprehensive healthcare.

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## **CAN I SAY THAT I DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THE TEST?**

- You have the right to say no.
- You do not have to explain the reason.
- You only need to tell the doctor or nurse.

If you say no:

- We will not perform the test.
- Your healthcare will be the same. We will continue to care for you equally.

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## **DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RESULT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?**

No. You do not have to wait for the result in the Emergency Department. You can go home when healthcare staff tell you.

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## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESULT IS POSITIVE?**

If the result is positive:

- The hospital will contact you.
- They will perform more tests to confirm it.

- You will be attended by a specialized team.
- You will start medical follow-up.
- You will be able to start treatment.

It is normal to feel fear or concern. But knowing it early is better for your health.

Treatment is effective. Many people with HIV live normal lives.

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## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESULT IS NEGATIVE?**

- If the result is negative, we will usually not call you.
- You can check the result with your primary care doctor.
- You can also check it through the usual hospital channels.

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## **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?**

You can ask at any time.

Healthcare staff are here to help you. You can ask them to explain the information again if you need it.

More information: <https://www.semes.org/nuevas-recomendaciones-informacion/>