

Blood Borne Virus Testing

While caring for you or your family member, a Health-Care Worker (or other client) may be accidentally exposed to your blood and or body fluids.

Following an exposure, there is risk of contracting viruses such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (**HIV**), **Hepatitis B** or **Hepatitis C**, if you carry these infections.

People infected with these viruses may not look or feel sick, but may unknowingly transmit the infection to another person through contact with their body fluids or with a needle stick injury.

The best way to know if you carry one of these viruses is through a **blood test**

Alberta Health Services only pursues blood testing if an exposure occurs, and it is important in these situations to ensure testing is completed as quickly as possible to allow for the earliest possible intervention to reduce risk of transmission.

All patients who are being registered for care, treatment, or a procedure, are asked to provide prior consent to having this blood testing should it become necessary. This protects both our Health-Care Workers and other people.

Therefore, we are asking your permission to test for these viruses in the event an exposure occurs.

Testing is **voluntary**, which means you may refuse the blood test without jeopardizing your care in any way. You may also withdraw this consent at any time, even if you have already signed the blood test consent form.

Test results are confidential and are only used by Alberta Health Services to determine the appropriate post-exposure treatment for a person who is exposed.

If a test result is positive, the results will be communicated to you and appropriate treatment discussed. Positive results must also be reported to the Alberta Health Services Medical Officer of Health (as required by the *Public Health Act*).

Please remember that this testing is *only* performed in the event that a person is exposed to your blood or body fluid through an injury with a needle, sharp object, or splash of your blood or body fluid.

If you have further questions about this testing, please let one of your Health-Care Team know, and your providers will review this information with you in more detail.