



## Newly Diagnosed Patients

### *Patient Information Sheet*

This is to give you some information about the tests that will be carried out following your recent HIV positive diagnosis. Please read this carefully and ask your doctor to explain anything that may be unclear to you.

Following a positive diagnosis, it is important to run a number of blood tests to check your general level of health, measure your CD4 count (indicates the strength of your immune system) and measure your viral load (indicates how much virus there is in the blood). A blood sample may also be taken to test for other infections that are important for your care, and may include Hepatitis B and C.

In addition to these, you will also have a HIV resistance test and a HIV incidence test. The resistance test will tell us whether the virus is likely to be resistant to any of the drugs that may be used in your treatment either now, or at a later stage. The incidence test will give us an indication as to whether or not you are likely to have been infected within the last 6 months. It is important to understand that the incidence test results must be interpreted with caution as it gives only an *approximate* indication.

Your doctor/nurse/sexual health adviser will discuss the results of these tests when they are available (generally within 2-6 weeks), either during your next clinical visit or during your later appointments. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to ask for more information.



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