



MINISTERO  
DELL'INTERNO

## INFORMATION FOR INFORMED CONSENT TO PERFORMANCE OF THE HIV TEST

**HIV** (*Human Immunodeficiency Virus*) is the virus that causes AIDS (*Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*), an infectious disease that attacks and seriously undermines the defences of our body, thereby endangering life unless it is treated. A person who contracts HIV becomes HIV-positive and can transmit the infection to other people. We can all contract HIV.

HIV is mainly transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse with people affected by HIV, through blood (e.g. needles used by people with HIV), or from a mother with HIV to a child during pregnancy, at the time of birth or in the course of breastfeeding.

**WHAT IS THE TEST?** The only way to know whether HIV has been contracted is to undergo a test consisting in a normal blood sample which, upon analysis, diagnoses the presence or otherwise of HIV infection. It is structured in two levels: a level I test, followed, in the event of a positive or doubtful outcome, by a level II or confirmation test, the only one capable of lending total certainty to the result. The test is used to detect the presence in the blood of antibodies to HIV, which only develop when the person undergoing the test has come into contact with the virus.

**The outcome of the test is:**

**-positive if the presence of antibodies to the virus is detected (HIV seropositivity),**

**-negative when the blood shows no trace of the antibodies (HIV seronegativity).**

The period of formation of the antibodies can vary from a minimum of a few weeks to 6 months after coming into contact with the virus. All the HIV test does is to check the presence or otherwise of antibodies to the virus, without providing any information on the state of health and the immune system.

**THE TEST IS VOLUNTARY** No person may be forced to undergo, without his consent, tests aiming to ascertain HIV infection in the absence of clinical necessity grounds in his interest.

It is important to know that an early diagnosis could allow a wider choice of treatments.

### PROTECTION OF ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The HIV test is free of charge and you can ask for it to be carried out anonymously. In any event, the utmost protection of privacy and professional secret are guaranteed, even for foreign people without residence permit. The outcome of the HIV test can only be communicated to the person who underwent the sampling procedure (Law No. 135 of 5 June 1990). Current law protects from discriminations arising from testing positive to HIV and ensures that any therapies that might prove necessary are extended to all people, Italian and foreign.

## EXPRESSION AND ACQUISITION OF INFORMED CONSENT

to the performance of a diagnostic test aiming to ascertaining HIV infection

*In accordance with Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, upon provision of an information notice, data is collected solely for informed consent purposes. Data is subject to professional secret and will not be communicated to anyone but stored exclusively at the facility where the test was carried out.*

The undersigned (surname and name)

born \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Legal representative of \_\_\_\_\_  
attached hereto)

(evidentiary documentation

having received an intelligible and comprehensible information on the healthcare procedure proposed to me, I freely, spontaneously and consciously express consent to performance of the diagnostic test aiming to ascertain HIV infection.

☐ **CONSENT** to the blood sample ☐ **DO NOT CONSENT**

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I provided, through an interview, detailed information on the test, which I believe was understood by the interested party.

Signature of the healthcare worker  
who received consent

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