

Rapid Test Result: Preliminary Positive

Protocol Components

Goal 1: Provide Rapid Test Result—Preliminary Positive

Goal 2: Identify Sources of Support and Provide Referrals

Goal 3: Address Risk Reduction Issues

Goal 4: Summarize and Close the Session

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Goal 1: Provide Rapid Test Result—Preliminary Positive

Protocol	Example
1. <i>If applicable, welcome client back.</i>	Welcome back, come on in and have a seat.
2. <i>If applicable, re-explain confidentiality.</i>	As before, everything we talk about will remain confidential.
3. <i>If applicable, verify that the result belongs to the client.</i>	<i>(This will vary by agency.)</i>
4. <i>Assess client's readiness to receive result.</i>	Are you ready to look at your result?
5. <i>Provide preliminary result clearly and simply.</i>	Your test result is “preliminary positive”, which suggests the presence of HIV.
6. <i>Review meaning of the result.</i>	Remember that this result must be confirmed.
7. <i>Allow the client time to absorb the meaning of the result.</i> <i>Allow attentive silence and respond to client's emotions and needs.</i>	
8. <i>Explore client's understanding of the preliminary result.</i>	What questions do you have about your result?

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Goal 1: Provide Rapid Test Result—Preliminary Positive, cont'd.

Protocol	Example
9. Assess how the client is coping with the preliminary result.	How are you feeling about this?
10. Address immediate concerns and fears.	What are you most concerned about right now?
11. Acknowledge the challenges of dealing with a preliminary positive result and provide appropriate support.	This can be difficult. Who will be supportive of you?
12. Emphasize the importance of additional (confirmatory) testing.	It's important for this test to be confirmed. Let's talk about how we'll do this and when your result will be back.
13. Review with the client the follow-up schedule for receiving the confirmatory test result.	The test results take _____ (<i>days/weeks</i>) to get back to us. We will make an appointment for you to return in _____ (<i>days/weeks</i>) and I, or someone else, if I'm not available, will meet with you to go over your results.
14. Conduct confirmatory test.	<i>(This will vary by agency.)</i>

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Goal 2: Identify Sources of Support and Provide Referrals

Protocol	Example
<p>1. Assess who client would like to tell about his/her positive test result.</p>	<p>This is very private information. Who might you be comfortable sharing this with?</p> <p><i>Follow-up Questions:</i> How do you think s/he will react? What do you think s/he will say?</p>
<p>2. Identify a family member or friend to help support the client.</p>	<p>Who will support you?</p>
<p>3. Assess client's receptiveness to referral(s).</p>	<p>I'd like to discuss some additional services that might help you. How do you feel about talking about that right now?</p>
<p>4. If applicable, help client access referral services.</p>	<p>Here are some options for care (<i>provide referral options</i>). I can call now to set up an appointment. When would you like to go?</p>

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Goal 3: Address Risk Reduction Issues

Protocol	Example
1. Re-orient client to risk reduction.	Remember I said we would talk about some ways to keep you safe. Let's look at that now.
2. Explore behavior(s) that the client is both motivated and capable to change.	We know that change usually occurs in small steps. What would you most like to do to reduce your risk?
3. Identify a SMART step (<i>specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic, time-phased</i>) toward changing the identified behavior. (<i>Buffet of options may be appropriate here.</i>) DO NOT WRITE THE STEP YET!	What small step could you take in the next week or two that would move you closer to reducing your risk?
4. Break down the risk reduction step into specific and concrete actions.	Now that you've identified something you would like to do, tell me how you could go about making this happen.
5. Identify supports or barriers to the risk reduction step.	What could help make it easier for you to complete this step? <i>Follow-up Questions:</i> Who would be supportive of you in trying this? What could make it more difficult for you?

* Since the result is preliminary positive, it will be important to develop a risk reduction step that will protect the client and others from the potential risk for transmission of HIV and/or acquisition of other STDs and/or HCV.

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Goal 3: Address Risk Reduction Issues, cont'd.

Protocol	Example
6. Problem-solve issues concerning the step (<i>role-play may be appropriate here</i>).	How will you handle situations/people that might get in the way of you achieving your step?
7. Confirm with the client that the step is reasonable and acceptable.	How realistic does this step seem to you?
8. Acknowledge that the step is a challenge.	Making changes in your life can be challenging.
9. Ask the client to try to be aware of strengths and weaknesses in the step while trying it out.	Try to notice what works and what is challenging for you about the step.
10. Document the risk reduction step with a copy to RRS and client. (WRITE IT DOWN NOW.)	Let's write down your step so we both have a copy. (WRITE IT DOWN NOW.)
11. Emphasize the importance of the client discussing the intention and content of the risk reduction step with a trusted friend or relative.	It's important to share your risk reduction step with someone who will support you.
12. Identify a person with whom the client feels comfortable disclosing the step.	Who do you usually talk with about challenges you're facing?
13. Convey confidence in the client's ability to complete the step.	I think you've challenged yourself with a really good step.

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Goal 4: Summarize and Close the Session

Protocol	Example
1. Review the importance of partner notification if confirmatory result is positive.	Over the next ___ (<i>days/weeks</i>), I want you to think about the persons that you have had sex with (<i>and/or the persons that you have shared works with</i>) in the past year. We may need to talk about a how best to let them know they've been at risk; since we know most people who have HIV don't know they have it because, unlike you, they have never been tested or don't think they could be at risk for the infection.
2. Validate client feelings.	This can be overwhelming; at the same time, there are very few decisions you have to make right this minute.
3. Summarize key issues addressed.	We've talked about (<i>name issue, resolutions, decisions, risk reduction step, referrals, review plan to return for result</i>). What else do we need to talk about before you leave?
4. Review client and RRS contact information.	Let me make sure that you know how to contact me if you need to talk with me. Let me be sure I know how to reach you (<i>review phone number, address</i>).
5. Get the client's immediate plans.	Where do you plan to go when you leave here? <i>Follow-up Question:</i> What about the next couple of days?
6. Review next appointment and close the session.	I'll see you again on (day, date, time). If you have any questions or if you forget something, be sure to call. Thanks for coming in.