

# What is this resource pack?

The *Tackling HIV Testing: increasing detection and diagnosis* resource pack is a practical toolkit for assisting clinicians in secondary healthcare settings to implement the recommendations of the *UK national guidelines for HIV testing 2008* across a range of inpatient and outpatient settings.

The materials in the resource pack have been subject to a process of review and comment by the *Tackling HIV Testing* Project Advisory Group which comprises leading experts in the field of HIV and sexual health, general medicine, other important specialties and public health, plus representatives of patient organisations (see Section 10 for a list of members). It is hoped that this will make it easier for them to pass through hospital trust approval processes, thus enabling a consistent hospital-wide approach to HIV testing to be implemented quickly and smoothly. The pack is available for download from the Tackling HIV Testing section of the MedFASH website, [www.medfash.org.uk](http://www.medfash.org.uk), and all materials may be freely reproduced for the purpose of ensuring quality of care.

The resource pack consists of two major elements:

### Template documents

These are for use within hospital trusts and can be made available via the trust intranet. They can be used as they are, or adapted to suit the particular needs of a hospital department.

Those useful for clinicians who offer HIV testing are:

- a protocol for HIV testing of adults outside the HIV specialist setting
- an aide-memoire of the essential elements of the pre-test discussion
- a 'useful contacts' sheet for help with HIV testing
- a letter to the medical director asking for help with implementing routine HIV testing.

There are also templates for use with patients:

- frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the HIV test that can also be used by staff as a crib sheet
- a paragraph about testing for blood-borne viruses (BBVs) that can be incorporated into a generic departmental patient information leaflet on the routine tests performed
- a waiting room poster advising patients that HIV testing is offered in the department.

### Presentation slide sets

Each slide set comprises about 20 slides designed for use by physicians, probably from HIV, Genitourinary Medicine or Infectious Diseases, who provide training to colleagues in other departments. They can be used as the basis of presentations to grand rounds, specialty rounds and similar educational meetings and can be combined and adapted to fit the context, time available and presenter's message if required.

The content covers:

- background information on HIV in the UK and levels of late diagnosis
- ways to overcome barriers to HIV testing
- an introduction to the *UK national guidelines for HIV testing 2008*
- case studies of patients diagnosed late with HIV identifying the missed opportunities for diagnosis in their history of contact with healthcare services
- key messages, learning points, maps of HIV prevalence and extracts from the *UK national guidelines for HIV testing 2008*.