

HIV and Hepatitis C Testing



Topics covered

Week 1: Introduction to Testing

Week 2: HIV Testing & Diagnosis

Week 3: Hepatitis C Testing & Diagnosis

Week 4: Key components of the HIV and hepatitis C testing process

Online meeting: HIV and Hepatitis C Testing: Implications for front-line service providers

Target audience

This course is geared towards front-line service providers who work with people who can benefit from HIV and/or hepatitis C testing. Participants should have a basic understanding of HIV and hepatitis C before beginning this course.

Time commitment

Participants should expect to commit 1.5 hours per week to complete all assigned online activities. The online meeting is approximately 2 hours long.

Technical requirements

- Desktop, laptop or tablet computer
- Internet connection
- Up-to-date Chrome, Firefox, or Safari web browser. *Note: this course cannot be completed with Internet Explorer.*
- Valid email address

Course Overview

CATIE's *HIV and Hepatitis C Testing* course aims to develop in-depth knowledge of testing technologies, approaches to testing, and how all service providers play an important role in reaching people with HIV and hepatitis C. Throughout this course, participants learn about the importance of testing for HIV and hepatitis C, what testing technologies exist in Canada, and key considerations to support people throughout the testing process. By exploring different approaches to testing and the barriers that exist from both an individual-level and system-level, service providers come away with strategies to facilitate testing and linkage to care, treatment, and prevention in their communities and with their clients.

This course is facilitated by a CATIE health education coordinator, providing instruction through a combination of online interactive e-learning units, discussion board assignments, and an online meeting.

Participants are requested to complete all online activities prior to attending the online meeting.

Learners will receive a certificate upon completion of all learning activities.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, the learner will be able to:

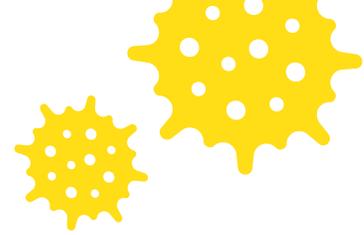
1. Explain the importance of testing.
2. Identify barriers and facilitators to HIV and hepatitis C testing.
3. Explain the HIV testing and diagnosis process and the types of tests used for HIV.
4. Explain the hepatitis C testing and diagnosis process and the types of tests used for hepatitis C.
5. Describe testing procedures that are key components of the HIV and hepatitis C testing process.
6. Identify key strategies and actions to support reaching people with undiagnosed HIV and hepatitis C.

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Weekly Modules



Week 1: Introduction to Testing

At the end of this unit, the learner will be able to:

- Explain why testing is important.
- Recognize the range of barriers and facilitators to HIV or hepatitis C testing.
- Describe testing approaches for reaching people with undiagnosed HIV or chronic hepatitis C.
- Identify clinical indications and priority populations for HIV or hepatitis C testing.

Week 2: HIV Testing and Diagnosis

At the end of this unit, the learner will be able to:

- Explain the ways people get tested for HIV.
- Describe the different technologies that are used to test for HIV in Canada.
- Explain the meaning and importance of window periods.
- Identify the window periods for HIV tests used in Canada.
- Discuss the accuracy of HIV tests.
- Explain what happens after an HIV diagnosis.

Week 3: HIV Hepatitis C Testing and Diagnosis

At the end of this unit, the learner will be able to:

- Explain the two-step testing process for diagnosing hepatitis C.
- Identify the ways people get tested for hepatitis C.
- Describe the different technologies used to test for hepatitis C in Canada.
- Explain the meaning and importance of window periods.
- Discuss the accuracy of hepatitis C tests.
- Explain what happens after a hepatitis C diagnosis.

Week 4: Key components of the HIV and hepatitis C testing process

At the end of this unit, the learner will be able to:

- Convey the importance of counselling, informed consent and confidentiality as part of the testing process.
- Describe considerations for pre- and post-test counselling and for information provided to people before and after they test.
- Explain the importance of linking people who get tested for HIV and/or hepatitis C to care and other health and social supports.
- Describe how to link people to services/supports that can help them access treatment or stay HIV and hepatitis C negative.

Online meeting

HIV and Hepatitis C Testing: Implications for front-line service providers

This online meeting will contextualize the information learned in the online modules and provide an opportunity to delve deeper. Participants are invited to come together for an interactive and enriching online session where they can learn, share, and discuss how this information can be applied to their daily work. This meeting uses webinar technology and takes place after the four-week course.

