5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE OFFERING AN HIV TEST TO YOUR PATIENTS

1. HIV is a manageable condition with near normal life expectancy when patients are diagnosed “early”.

2. However 47% of patients are diagnosed “late” with a CD4 count of less than 350, with 1 in 5 still unaware of their diagnosis. These patients have an eleven fold increased risk of death within 1 year of HIV diagnosis compared to those diagnosed with a higher CD4.

3. A study has shown that 50% of newly diagnosed in-patients had attended a hospital in the 5 years previously often with HIV indicator conditions but had never been offered a test.

4. Testing is acceptable to patients 80% of those questioned would be happy to accept a test on recommendation of a health care professional.

5. Testing is simple quick and easy to do.

WHO TO TEST

In Kingston the HIV prevalence rate is 2.1 per 1,000. With this prevalence rate the current UK National Guidelines for HIV testing recommend that ALL general medical admissions are tested for HIV.

In addition patients attending any other departments should be considered for HIV testing if they exhibit any indicator condition1. For example:

- Respiratory: TB, bacterial pneumonia,
- Neurology: Aseptic meningitis, cerebral abscess, peripheral neuropathy, dementia, Guillain-Barre
- Dermatology: multi dermal or recurrent zoster, severe psoriasis, recalcitrant seborrhoeic dermatitis
- Gastroenterology: weight loss of unknown cause, diarrhoea of unknown cause. Salmonella, Shigella, campylobacter, oral candida, hepatitis B/C
- Haematology: unexplained blood dyscrasia
- Oncology: anal cancer, seminoma, lung cancer, hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Gynaecology: VIN, CIN
- Ophthalmology: infective retinal diseases eg herpes or toxoplasma
- Or lymphadenopathy, pyrexia of unknown cause or an STI.

HOW TO TEST

Explain to patient why you would like test them for HIV.

Gain verbal consent to test - should be within the competence of any doctor, midwife or nurse or trained health care worker to obtain consent for and conduct an HIV test. The essential elements of this are. The benefits of testing to the individual and details of how the results will be given.

1. Take a blood sample using a gold top tube

2. Results should be ready within 48 hours. As with all tests you are responsible for checking results.

3. If the result is reactive – contact The Wolverton Centre. We can provide assistance in giving results and arrange follow up for patients.

USEFUL CONTACTS

The Wolverton Centre, Kingston Hospital, Galsworthy Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 7QB.

24 hour Info Line: 020 8974 9331

www.SexualHealthKingston.co.uk

Tel: 020 8934 6845 / 020 8934 3399

Fax: 020 8481 0078

Out of hours HIV Consultant on call via Kingston Hospital Switchboard: 020 8546 7711

1 May,M; Gompels,M; Delpech,V; Porter,K; Post,F; Johnson, M et al. Impact of late diagnosis and treatment on life expectancy in people with HIV-1: UK collaborative HIV cohort (UKCHIC) study BMJ 2011 343:D606

2 Lightburn, J; Ramasami, S; Hijazi, L; Lascar, M; Late HIV diagnosis or missed HIV diagnosis - an analysis of previous hospital attendance of newly diagnosed HIV+ patients Poster presentation 18th annual conference of BHIVA 2012

3 Chan, SY; Hill Tout, R; Rodgers, D; Cormac, I; Acceptance of HIV testing in medical in-patients; a local acceptability study Int J STD/AIDS 2011 April 22 (4); 187-9

4 British HIV Association testing guidelines 2008.
Pathway for New HIV diagnosed patients

From: GP/Community services
To: Wolverton Centre for Sexual Health, Kingston Hospital

Please refer immediately after first positive HIV test
The Wolverton will take a second blood sample to confirm the HIV diagnosis

GP - communicate

1. To patient HIV positive result and
2. THT support line number 0808 802 1221
3. With The Wolverton Centre, KH via one of methods below:

Acutely unwell patients

GP - contact
- Contact ‘Consultant on call’ via Kingston Hospital switchboard on 0208 546 7711
- Fax referral letter to Wolverton Centre 0208 481 0078

Secretaries
- Retrieve referral fax for consultant

Consultant

1. After discussion with GP to action one of the following:
   - Admit to KH via A&E or AAU
   - Review urgently in clinic

Routine referrals

GP – contact
- Secretary 0208 934 6845/3399 with patient details and contact numbers
- Fax referral letter to Wolverton Centre 0208 481 0078

Secretary - inform
- HIV Specialist nurse (or most senior nurse available)

HIV Specialist nurse - contact
- Patient inviting them in for initial assessment/counselling/blood tests

HIV Specialist nurse - arrange
- Nurse pre-assessment appointment within 48hrs – includes history taking/counselling/support and base line blood tests

Consultant

- Nurse pre-assessment appointment within 48hrs – includes history taking/counselling/support and base line blood tests

HIV Specialist nurse - arrange
- Consultant appointment within 14 days of GP referral and inform patient

Contact Wolverton Centre: Tel: 020 8934 6845 / 020 8934 3399 if assistance required.