SOP template 4: pre-test information for self-testing

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| **Purpose** | This template is designed for counselors, outreach workers, and healthcare providers to facilitate the introduction of self-testing kits for HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and syphilis to individuals. It guides the pre-test information session to ensure consistency in messages provided to self-testers.  |
| **Key messages** | **Pre-test information may be offered through** * + individual or group information sessions
	+ posters, brochures, websites, and short video clips shown in waiting rooms
	+ information should be age-appropriate for children and adolescents.
	+ Face-to-face during distribution of self-test kit – advise client where to get further information – such as IFU

Introduce self-testing for HIV, HCV, and syphilis as an option available for screening. Share the benefits of self-testing (empowers the user to exercise choice, gives accurate results, can be done at a convenient place and time, easy to use and interpret the result, ensures privacy and non-discrimination).**Emphasize*** those using self-tests with reactive results should always get further testing by a trained provider
* test results must be read only in the read time suggested.
* Self-testers should be advised to dispose of kits after interpreting their results and should not re-read results after the read window has elapsed
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| **Content** | **Introduction*** When distributing ST kits, users should be provided with appropriate and high-quality pre-test information and demonstrations
* Information must include
	+ how to collect the specimen
	+ how to conduct the test
	+ how to interpret the result of the ST (reactive, non-reactive, or invalid)
	+ where to get confirmatory testing if the result is reactive
	+ how to link to prevention, treatment and other related services

**Information must include the following:** * + benefits of HIV/Hep/Syph testing and implications of undiagnosed disease
	+ meaning of a reactive self-test, and that it requires further testing by a trained provider
	+ meaning of a non-reactive result, and information about prevention options.
	+ for HIV, highlight the potential for incorrect results if one is on ART
	+ for Hep, highlight the differences between active and chronic disease
	+ include information on the benefits of treatment as prevention – that is, U=U
	+ include modes of transmission and address common myths.
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