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 |
| **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. |