



## Module 7

# Preparation for Testing – Supplies and Kits

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**Purpose**

To help you become familiar and comfortable with the different supplies and materials required for HIV rapid testing.

**Pre-requisite  
Modules**

None

**Learning  
Objectives**

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- List and identify all the supplies required for HIV rapid testing
- List and identify all the components of test kits for HIV rapid testing

**Content Outline**

Supplies for HIV rapid testing

Components of Test kits

**Handout**

Checklist of Supplies and Materials

**Notes on  
Customization**

Replace pictures of supplies and materials with actual ones used in your country.

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## Supplies and Materials Checklist

Refer to the checklist at the end of the module for a list of materials and supplies required for HIV rapid testing. Read the rest of the module if you are not already familiar with these items.

### Gloves

Gloves are used for safety reasons – to protect both you and the patient or client. It is important that the proper size gloves are used. Wearing gloves that are too large may pose a safety hazard and make it cumbersome to work with. Keep in mind that long nails may puncture the glove, making them ineffective.



Gloves must be changed between patients, and disposed of in a container labeled as bio-hazardous waste. Never use gloves that have been previously used or are torn. Gloves come in Latex or polypropylene - consider latex allergies when selecting the type of glove to use.

### Alcohol Swabs



Alcohol is used to cleanse the finger before pricking the client's finger. Alternatively, use a bottle of rubbing alcohol and cotton wool.

## Cotton Gauze or Cotton Balls



Cotton balls are used to: wipe away the first drop of blood, and to stop bleeding after specimen is collected. They are for single use only. Contaminated cotton gauze or cotton balls should be disposed of with other hazardous waste.

## Sterile Lancets



There are a variety of lancets available for use. Some are easier to use than others. One difference in the types of lancets is the depth of the puncture made by the retractable blade.

## Pipette

Pipettes are used to collect a specified volume of blood specimen from the fingertip. There are 2 types of pipettes commonly used.

The *transfer pipette* is a disposable plastic item that is used only once. Be sure to dispose of this along with other contaminated waste.

The *automatic pipette* is used to collect a specified volume of blood and is most often used in laboratories. A disposable tip is attached to the end of the pipette for collecting the blood. After use, the tip is ejected or removed and is disposed of along with other contaminated waste.



**Transfer  
Pipette**



**Automatic  
Pipette**

The loop is another tool used to collect a specified volume of blood. This is used with some kits.

## Timer



Shown here are two types of timer that can be used for waiting the specified time to elapse before test results are read. You may also use a watch, or clock.

## Standard Operating Procedures and Forms

Each site will also need to follow standard operating procedures, and use standard forms for recording test results.



## Labeling Pens and Writing Pens



A permanent marker as seen on the left is best used for labeling test devices. Ball point pens (seen on the right) are used to fill in forms. Never use pencils, especially for recording client results – results can be erased and changed.

## Sharps Disposal Bins / Disinfectant Jar



There are many different types of disposal bins. Shown in the above right is an example of a jar with disinfectant and lid, which can be used in the absence of a formal disposal bin. Regardless of the brand or type of container, it should be one in which your hand cannot reach inside.

All sharps containers must be labeled as bio-hazard waste. Stickers with a symbol indicating biohazard waste may be available in your area.

## Proper Disposal of Contaminated Waste



Image above – Non-Sharps contaminated waste can be disposed of in a container that does not have a closable lid.



Image above – All sharps must be stored in a container with a closable lid.

## Waste Disposal



Note the image on the left contains contaminated waste that has a closable lid. This floor model offers the option of stepping on the opener so that your hands will not have to touch the container.

## Household Bleach and Container

Can you see the following items in the picture?

- The cup for measuring 1 part bleach and 9 parts water
- The pen used for labeling the spray bottle
- The tape used for attaching to the bottle for labeling with the expiration date. Bleach solutions lose their disinfecting power after 7 days.



## Examine Test Kits

Examine the test kits that are approved in your country. Pay attention to the components of each test kit. In addition, notice the following two components:

- Desiccant packet – This is not used when performing the test. It only serves to keep the packet contents dry before use. It should be discarded when the test kit packet is opened.
- Buffer solution – Required by some kits

## Organize Your Work Area

Having an organized workspace is key to producing quality results. It is important to:

- Keep working area neat, clean and organized.
- Have necessary supplies placed within reach at the testing area before testing. Once the tester sits with the client, it will make the client even more nervous if the tester has to keep getting up to collect more supplies.



### Key message

- Having an organized workspace is key to producing quality results
- Be sure to have all the supplies you need in reach before beginning a test.



## Module Review

Find out how much you have learned by answering these questions.

**What are these items used for?**

**Gloves** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alcohol swabs** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cotton balls or gauze** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sterile lancets** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pipette** \_\_\_\_\_

**Timer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Standard operating procedures** \_\_\_\_\_

**Marking pens** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sharps disposal bins** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disinfectant jar** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bleach** \_\_\_\_\_

**List and explain the components in the test kits approved for use in your country?**

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## Checklist of Supplies and Materials

_____ HIV Rapid Test Kit(s)	_____ Surgical Gloves
_____ Alcohol or alcohol prep pads	_____ Cotton gauze / wool
_____ Laboratory Coats or Aprons	_____ Timer, clock, or watch
_____ Sterile Lancets	_____ Lancet bin or Disinfectant jar
_____ Transfer pipettes, pipette tips	_____ Pens for labeling
_____ Paper towels	_____ Hand washing soap
_____ Leak-proof bag	_____ Disinfectant
_____ Band-Aids or plasters	_____ Thermometer
_____ Positive and Negative Controls	_____ Log book or register
_____ Spray/Wash bottle	_____ Standard Operating Procedures