

ANNOUNCING

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM FOR RAPID HIV TESTING

To support our mission of improving public health and preventing disease through continuously improving laboratory practices, the Model Performance Evaluation Program (MPEP), Division of Laboratory Systems, National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, Coordinating Center for Infectious Disease, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of a HIV rapid testing performance evaluation program (HIV Rapid Testing MPEP). This program offers external performance evaluation (PE) for rapid tests such as the OraQuick Advance Rapid HIV-1/2 Test (approved as a waived test by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), and for other licensed tests such as the MedMira Reveal™ G2 Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test. Participation in PE surveys may lead to improved testing performance because participants have the opportunity to identify areas for improvement in testing practices. This program serves as a source for external assessment as recommended in the CDC-published guidelines for HIV-1 rapid testing (www.cdc.gov/hiv/rapid_testing/materials/QA-Guide.htm). This program will also help to ensure accurate testing as a basis for development of prevention and intervention strategies.

This external quality assessment program is currently available at **NO COST** to sites performing rapid testing for HIV antibodies and consists of two challenges per year (6 samples in each challenge). This program offers your laboratory/testing site an opportunity for:

- ✓ assuring that you are providing accurate tests through external quality assessment,
- ✓ improving your testing quality through self-evaluation in a nonregulatory environment,
- ✓ testing well characterized samples from a source outside the test kit manufacturer,
- ✓ discovering potential testing problems so you can adjust procedures to eliminate them,
- ✓ comparing your results to others at a national and international level, and
- ✓ consulting with CDC staff to discuss testing issues.

This program is customized for ease of use in all types of HIV rapid testing venues. This includes clinical laboratories, community-based organizations, HIV counseling and testing centers, and other testing sites where HIV rapid testing is performed. Testing venues may participate individually, or groups of testing sites may choose to participate through a core site organized by their state or local Health Department.

We encourage laboratories and alternative testing sites performing HIV rapid testing to participate in the HIV Rapid Testing MPEP. Please see the box below for enrollment information.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION:

CALL 404-718-1004 or 404-718-1005

ENROLL ONLINE AT

[HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/MPEP/ENROLLMENT.ASPX](http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/mpep/enrollment.aspx)



For more information on the **MPEP**, visit our website at
[Http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/mpep/rdescrp.aspx](http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/mpep/rdescrp.aspx)

