

# A collaborative training resource for increased HIV testing in non-GUM secondary care

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## Objective

- Late diagnosis of HIV remains a challenge in the UK.
- National guidelines set out criteria for testing outside the genitourinary medicine (GUM) setting<sup>1</sup> – despite this, testing in other specialties remains low.<sup>2</sup>
- A training resource was developed with the aim of increasing testing among non-HIV specialists in secondary care.

## Methods

- Collaborative project between the GUM and respiratory departments at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust (supported by Bristol-Myers Squibb; Box 1).
- Hospital-level plan comprised a training slide deck and supportive materials, including a survey for assessing the impact of the training (Box 2).
- Resource was developed to enable HIV specialists and non-GUM colleagues to work collaboratively and jointly deliver HIV testing training to non-HIV specialists.
- Incorporated insights from UK Department of Health 'Time to Test' pilots: the barriers to testing, the information and support needed for clinicians to initiate testing and the practical issues which need addressing.
- Targeted at all levels of doctor in a non-HIV specialist department where indicator conditions are likely to present.
- Training can be delivered in 45–60 minutes and is designed to integrate into departmental training time.
- Core training materials can be tailored to individual units; entire package is provided in electronic format for ease of use.

Box 1: Programme plan

Phase 1:  
Learning from experience

Phase 2:  
Develop & implement tailored pilot programme


Phase 3:  
Programme expansion

- One-to-one meetings with clinicians at a number of UK HIV centres
- Developed training resources
- Pilot launch
- Roll-out to other centres
- Evaluation using online survey – baseline vs. follow-up

## Results

- The training resource supports doctors in offering HIV testing to patients, and alerts them to their centre's care pathway.
- Piloted to the respiratory department at St George's Hospital in October 2011, it has since been taken up by 30 further centres, with reports of increased testing and earlier diagnosis (Box 3).

Box 2: Programme identity and materials



- Training slides
- Video case studies
- Patient footage
- Online survey
- Supportive materials
- Summary sheet

Box 3: Training feedback

*“Very useful and exactly what I am looking for...It is a great advantage to have a before and after survey, so I can audit the effectiveness”*

Dr Rak Nandwani, Consultant Physician in GUM, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, UK and joint creator of the Sandyford in Glasgow – one of the largest sexual health services in Europe

*“Since using these materials, there has been a **60% increase** in routine HIV testing by junior doctors and a **13% shift** in earlier diagnosis”*

Dr Dushyant Mital, Consultant in Sexual Health & HIV Medicine, Milton Keynes NHS Foundation

## Conclusion

- Preliminary results indicate that delivery of the training resource is feasible and well-received.
- Continuing roll out.
- Plans to develop training for primary care setting.

## References

1. UK National Guidelines for HIV Testing, 2008. 2. Health Protection Agency. HIV in the United Kingdom: 2011 Report.