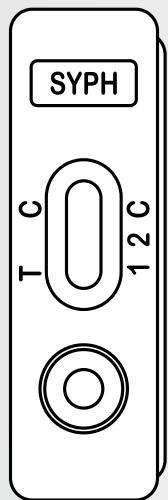


# Tackling Co-Infection Through Collaboration

In the United States, co-infection rates between HIV and syphilis have been on the rise over the past decade.

***Studies have shown that individuals with HIV are at a higher risk of acquiring syphilis.*** There is a need for integrated testing and comprehensive care for both HIV and syphilis.

CDC recommends routine syphilis screening for all individuals with HIV at least once a year, and more frequently for those at higher risk. This approach helps in early detection and management of both infections.



## Syphilis Health Check™

### Rapid syphilis testing made simple.

- Similar testing platform and procedure to HIV rapid tests
- Results in 10 minutes
- Highly accurate: 98% sensitivity, 97.2% specificity
- Detects syphilis at all stages of infection, from early primary infection to latency.
- Manually read, no additional equipment or readers required.
- Compact and lightweight, can be performed in any setting

# Understanding HIV and Syphilis Co-Infection



**Syphilis is a bacterial infection spread through sexual contact or from mother to baby during childbirth.**



**HIV is a viral infection transmitted through sexual contact, shared needles, or from mother to baby during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.**

Syphilis sores can increase the risk of contracting HIV by providing a direct entry point for the virus. People with HIV have a compromised immune system, making them more susceptible to infections like syphilis. When HIV and syphilis co-occur, complications and disease progression are more likely, and the risk of transmitting both infections to partners is higher.<sup>1</sup>

Early detection and treatment are crucial for better outcomes. Offering combined HIV and syphilis testing in a single visit streamlines care and encourages individuals to prioritize their sexual health.

## Ways to Prevent Syphilis and Co-Infection with HIV:

Education on preventative measures is essential. By following these guidelines, individuals can reduce their risk of syphilis and HIV co-infection. Equip your patients with the knowledge they need for better prevention.

### Practice Safe Sex:

Advocate for consistent use of condoms during sexual activity to prevent the transmission of syphilis, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



### Get Routine Testing

Emphasize the importance of regular STI testing. Rapid tests can provide results in just 10 minutes, making testing more convenient than ever.



### Maintain Open Communication:

Encourage open discussions with partners about sexual health. Communication helps in making informed decisions and reducing the risk of infection.



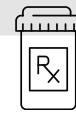
### Ensure Needle Safety:

Advise patients who inject drugs to always use clean needles and syringes to prevent the transmission of HIV and other infections.



### Adhere to Treatment:

Stress the importance of following treatment plans. Proper adherence ensures effective management and reduces the risk of co-infection.



1 - <https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/fact-sheets/hiv-and-sexually-transmitted-diseases/sts>