Testing Together

at Howard Brown Health Center

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER

Registration

- Upon arrival, partners meet with a Patient Service Representative (PSR).
- Each individual fills out an Individual HIV Testing Consent Form, if HIV testing is requested.
- Partners are registered individually, each as a 'Walk-In Counselor-Couples' or a 'Walk-In Nurse-Couples' clinic visit.

Walk-In Counselor Couples Visit

- Partners are called in together by a Medical Assistant or Health Educator for venipuncture process.
- Includes free testing for HIV, Syphilis, and/or Hepatitis C.
- Each individual receives a Couples Health Assessment Form, which includes a Couples HIV Testing Consent Form and Individual Behavioral Risk Assessment, to complete in waiting room after venipuncture while the HIV test is processing.

Walk-In Nurse Couples Visit

- Partners are called in together by Registered Nurse for STI Clinic Visit and venipuncture process.
- Can include assessment for HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Hepatitis A/B/C, Herpes, Trichomonas, Bacterial Vaginosis, yeast and/or pregnancy, as well as triage and/or treatment for suspected or confirmed infections/conditions based on exposure or symptoms.
- Each individual receives a Couples Health Assessment Form, which includes a Couples HIV Testing Consent Form and Individual Behavioral Risk Assessment, to complete in waiting room after the nurse visit while the HIV test is processing.

Couples Health Assessment Forms

- Partners remain together in the waiting room and individually complete the Couples Health Assessment Forms.
- The Couples Health Assessment Forms include a screening component for intimate partner violence (IPV) and coercion that the Health Educator will review once partners are called in.
- Each partner signs the Couples HIV Testing Consent Form and understands that the Health Educator may elect to separate the couple at any point during the *Testing Together* session.

- Each partner consents to have their partner(s) in the room when results of the HIV test are given and can choose at any point to test for HIV individually without their partner in the room or choose not to test for HIV at all.
- Partners wait until they are called in by the Health Educator for the *Testing Together* session.

Testing Together

Couples HIV Testing and Counseling

- *Testing Together* allows partners to have a safe, confidential space for discussion about their sexual health and partnership agreements, and also learn their own HIV status as well as the HIV status of their partner(s).
- Partners are called in from the waiting room together by the Health Educator and provide their completed Couples Health Assessment Forms.
- The Health Educator is observant for signs of coercion and IPV based on the screening questions and responses, specific language and body language, and decides whether to proceed with the *Testing Together* session.

- If the Health Educator suspects coercion or IPV, then the Health Educator can elect to separate partners into individual rooms and provide HIV results individually, or not at all.
- If no coercion or IPV is suspected, then the Health Educator can proceed with the *Testing Together* session and lead a discussion about HIV risk reduction focused on the present and the future.
- The Health Educator can provide information regarding HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections, PrEP/PEP, and contraception.
- The Health Educator will discuss the HIV test results and can provide appropriate linkage to services at HBHC, such as primary care and/or counseling.

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