

Testing Together

at Howard Brown Health Center

The Testing Together program at Howard Brown Health Center provides the opportunity for couples or individuals in romantic and/or sexual partnerships to have an HIV test and receive their results together in a safe and confidential environment. Testing Together gives partners the chance to have a discussion about their partnership agreements and make decisions about their sexual health together. HIV testing is offered as a free service and partners will receive rapid HIV test results the day of their visit.

In addition to free HIV testing, Howard Brown Health Center can also offer a variety of services for couples or partners in the Walk-In Clinic. Partners can choose to elect a Walk-In Counselor Couples visit or a Walk-In Nurse Couples visit upon their arrival and registration at Howard Brown Health Center.

The following couples services are available to those who come in for Testing Together:

▷ **Walk-In Counselor Couples Visit**

A Walk-In Counselor Couples visit can include free testing for HIV, Syphilis, and/or Hepatitis C. The HIV test at Howard Brown Health Center includes an Antibody-only HIV rapid test and also an Antigen/Antibody fourth generation HIV test performed by a laboratory. Testing will consist of a venipuncture (blood draw) by an officially trained Medical Assistant or Health Educator and results are provided to partners together for the rapid HIV test the same day. Results for the lab-based, fourth generation test are usually back in 2-5 business days.

▷ **Walk-In Nurse Couples Visit**

A Walk-In Nurse Couples visit can include assessment and triage for suspected or confirmed sexually transmitted infections (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Hepatitis A/B/C, Herpes, and Trichomonas) as well as conditions like Bacterial Vaginosis, yeast, and/or pregnancy under the STI Clinic Visit option. Partners will meet with a Registered Nurse together to discuss concerns related to sexual/reproductive health and wellness, including symptoms or known exposure to any sexually transmitted infections. Treatment is available for those who are currently experiencing symptoms or there is a known exposure to a sexually transmitted infection. The Walk-In Nurse Couples visit can also include testing for HIV (rapid Antibody and lab-based HIV test) and the rapid HIV test results will be available the same day of visit. The results for the lab-based, fourth generation HIV test are usually back in 2-5 business days.

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Partners will meet with a Health Educator after blood sample and culture collection for a Testing Together HIV testing session. In this session, partners can discuss or update any current agreements they have in their partnership and make decisions about their sexual health together. The Health Educator and partners can discuss topics such as HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections, PrEP/PEP, and contraception. Results for the rapid HIV test will be provided to partners together and the Health Educator can provide appropriate linkage to other services at Howard Brown Health Center, such as primary care and/or counseling.