



TESTING 1, 2, 3... 4

Ed Gardner, MD
Denver PTC Faculty

WE CAN HELP IMPROVE OR IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT HIV SCREENING!

One out of seven people living with HIV in the United States does not yet know that they are infected. Since not all settings are able to screen all of their patients, expanding HIV screening in a strategically targeted manner may be an option to increase identification of persons living with HIV. The *Denver HIV Risk Score*, a clinical prediction tool, was developed for this purpose to help identify patients in diverse settings with increased probability of undiagnosed HIV infection.¹

Identifying people living with HIV and linking them into HIV medical care increases their potential for better health outcomes and can reduce the potential spread of HIV.

What You Should Know About the Denver HIV Risk Score (DHRS):

- The DHRS is a risk prediction tool demonstrated to more effectively target HIV screening in an urban emergency department. This tool was developed in Denver but validated for use in any jurisdiction.
- Utilizing the DHRS can reduce the number of tests required to identify newly-diagnosed patients, thus extending HIV testing resources.

The Denver PTC can assist with:

- Identifying areas and developing protocols to systematize routine or universal HIV screening within your healthcare organization in a strategic manner.
- Identifying opportunities to use the DHRS risk prediction tool.
- Using epidemiological data to prioritize populations for HIV testing.
- Using ethnographic research to prioritize when and where HIV tests are performed.
- Assessing the cost effectiveness of rapid vs conventional HIV testing in your organization.

THE STRATEGICALLY EXPANDED HIV SCREENING CHECKLIST:

What to Consider Before Expanding HIV Screening:

Assess your patient population:

- Are the people you serve at high risk for HIV?
- Should you be more proactively screening your patients for HIV?
- What is the prevalence of HIV in your area?

Review your current protocol for HIV testing:

- Are the right people getting tested?
- Are you using a test that provides timely information for the provider and the patient?
- How many people that you test for HIV receive their results?
- What is the cost of your current HIV testing to your organization?

Create a plan that is realistic and cost effective for your organization:

- Rapid vs conventional HIV testing or a combined approach?
- Who will perform the risk assessment and testing, revise protocols, monitor quality control and assurance requirements?
- What training will be required?
- How do I monitor and evaluate the success of expanded HIV testing?

Resources:

¹ Haukoos JS et al. Comparison of Enhanced Targeted Rapid HIV Screening Using the Denver HIV Risk Score to Nontargeted Rapid HIV Screening in the Emergency Department. *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 61(3):353-361, 2013

Denver Risk Score Tool: <https://www.denverptc.org/HIVScreeningCO.html>