

Table 3. The psychological patterning of HIV testing and potential implications for services and intervention development

	Psychological issues for testee	Service implication	Intervention opportunities
Testing in response to a 'one off' perceived risk event	<p>Assumes recognition of risk</p> <p>Perceived risk of infection is high</p> <p>Reflective decision-making process should be targeted within intervention mechanism of action</p> <p>Potential high levels of distress</p>	<p>Medium positivity potential</p> <p>Waiting period (due to window period and processing delays)/rapid results</p> <p>Arrange provision of support</p> <p>Arrange provision of range of STI tests</p> <p>Arrange intensive partner notification</p> <p>Tolerance for higher cost HIV tests</p>	<p>Suggests on-going population level interventions to educate MSM to recognize risk (e.g. post-PrEP)</p> <p>The testing experience may represent a teachable moment – Boosting behavioral interventions to maintain safer behavior or initiate PrEP if available</p> <p>Provides an entry into pathway for care and secondary prevention for positive tests</p> <p>Consideration of approaches such as below</p>
Testing in relation to on-going high risk behavior	<p>Perceived risk may be high</p> <p>Other priorities may be more important than HIV risk</p> <p>Distal determinants of on-going risk behavior may be important (i.e. syndemics)</p>	<p>Challenge of identifying group of on-going high risk MSM or Intravenous drug users</p> <p>Ensure positive experience to encourage habit formation of service use</p> <p>Establish relationship and continuation of care</p> <p>Arrange intensive Partner notification</p> <p>Focus upon patient choice given their potential diverse service needs</p>	<p>Personalized risk assessment may be useful for fostering testee and professional recognition of patterns of risk behavior</p> <p>Intensive intervention may be needed to change the maintenance of problematic behavior change</p> <p>Reminders/triggers/behavioural prompts</p> <p>Testing bundles (Wide range of STI and blood borne viruses) may be appropriate</p> <p>Referral for PrEP may viable</p>

		Explore provision of testing bundles STIs (convenience and self-management) High positivity risk (HIV), high STI risk	Candidates for intensive behavioral prevention which addresses the wider psychological and social determinants of risk
Testing in relation to higher risk due to group membership, or area of high HIV prevalence rather than risk behaviour per se	High HIV awareness but possibly low risk perception Maintenance of group membership	Challenge of identifying group and encouraging testing without stigmatizing Ensure positive experience Establish relationship and continuation of care Focus upon patient choice Provision of testing bundles STIs (convenience and self-management) Intensive partner notification	Suggests identity related interventions should be considered Suggests interventions which focus upon normative influence, social capital and social context should be considered Norm based interventions that focus upon prompts for repeat testing and peer support for testing should be considered Focus upon salutogenic issues and resilience
First ever test	Reflective decision-making Associated with younger age or recent MSM conduct	Ensure positive experience and establish a sense of habit Normalise experience Routine Partner notification	School-based interventions should be considered to increase opportunities to test Mass media interventions should be considered to increase motivation and capability to test Age related interventions may capitalize on community norms Identity related interventions may work particular for younger men and men recently coming out

Routine testing as sexual health screen	Low risk perception	Minimal attention to HIV per se Low positivity risk Routine Partner notification	Interventions could focus upon effective prompts for timely return to services Focus upon salutogenic issues and resilience Explore self-managed testing interventions (e.g., postal delivery)
--	---------------------	--	--