

# Pros and Cons of HIV Antibody Testing



## HIV/AIDS Information Sheet

### 1. Medical Treatment and Care

- First step in the assessment process
- A baseline - other tests can be used to determine the stage of HIV infection
- Decisions related to clinical monitoring and care, as well as pregnancy

### 2. Prevention of the Transmission of HIV

- Information and counseling related to safer sex and drug-using behaviour
- Referral for related issues, including addictions, abuse/assault, income, etc.

### 3. Decision-Making in Relationships

- Starting a new relationship - a need to know status
- Telling partners (recent and past) about HIV status
- Reinforcement of need for consistent condom/dental dam use
- Planning for children, particularly if HIV positive
- Previous behaviours, including injection drug use, sexual identity and practices

### 4. Management of Stress

- Need to discuss personal concerns
- Reduce the stress of unknown HIV status
- Increase in stress and psycho-social challenges upon positive result

### 5. Implications for Travel and Life Insurance

- Requirement for work visa
- Requirement of some insurance companies

### 6. Planning of Services

- Reportable disease
- Helpful to the allocation of health and social services resources