

Rapid HIV Testing on Labor and Delivery **Information Sheet**

We recommend an HIV test for ALL women in pregnancy.

Why should I have the rapid HIV test?

- HIV is a serious illness that can affect your health and the health of your baby.
- If you have HIV, you can help your baby by getting treatment.
- A woman can give HIV to her baby during pregnancy, at delivery, and through breastfeeding.
- If you have HIV, your medical providers can help you lower the chance your baby will be infected.
 - We can give you medicine during labor and give your baby medicine after birth. Without medicine the chance that your baby will be infected is about 1 in 4 = 25%. With medicine, the chance that your baby will get HIV is about 1 in 11 = 9%
 - We may offer a Cesarean delivery if your bag of water is not broken and you are not in labor.
 - We will recommend that you feed your baby formula instead of breast milk.
- We need to know the results of the test in order help you and your baby.

What is the rapid HIV test?

This HIV test can give you a result within 1 to 2 hours. This is much faster than other types of HIV tests. However, it is important to understand that the rapid HIV test can only give you a **preliminary** positive test result. **Preliminary** means that although the test may look positive, a different test must be done to tell whether you **really** have HIV.

I already had an HIV test. Why do I need another one?

- A test during this pregnancy will give results that can help this baby.
- Even though your last test showed no HIV, you might have HIV now.

What will happen after the test?

If the rapid HIV test is **negative:**

- No more testing is needed right now. We will not recommend medicine for you or your baby.
- There's a chance HIV might not show up on the test if you were infected with HIV within the last 6 months.
- Talk with your health care provider about when you should get another test.

If the rapid HIV test is **positive:**

- We will do a different test to confirm this preliminary result. This final test result will be available within one week. While we wait for the final test result, we will provide medicine for you and your baby as if you had HIV.
- You will receive medicine during labor and delivery to reduce the risk of giving HIV to your baby. We believe this medicine is safe for pregnant women.
- Your baby will receive medicine after birth to further reduce the chance that he or she will become infected with HIV. This medicine is considered safe for your baby.
- If your bag of water hasn't yet broken and you are not yet in labor, the doctors may recommend that you have a cesarean delivery to lower the chance of passing HIV to your baby.
- We recommend that you not start breastfeeding until after we know your final test result. If you are interested in breastfeeding your baby, you can pump your breasts to start milk production, but throw away the milk.
- If the final HIV test is **negative**, both you and your baby will stop taking the medicine (and you can begin breastfeeding). We strongly recommend another HIV test in one month.
- If the final HIV test is **positive**, we will do further testing to determine whether or not your baby has HIV. We will refer you and your baby to medical specialists.