

HIV/Hepatitis Baseline Testing

SART Listserv

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Background: A SART currently recommends patients follow-up with either their personal medical doctor or at free and confidential testing sites for HIV/hepatitis testing. The SART want to know what other communities offer and why.

Response:

- At the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans, we do baseline testing and follow up testing at 3 and 6 months.
- We try to make things as simple for patients as possible – less run around – less “errands” related to the assault. According to the current nPEP guidelines CDC says this:

Because persons who are infected with HIV might not be aware they are infected, baseline HIV testing should be performed on all persons seeking evaluation for potential nonoccupational HIV exposure. If possible, this should be done with an FDA-approved rapid test kit (with results available within an hour). If rapid tests are not available, an initial treatment decision should be made based on the assumption that the potentially exposed patient is not infected, pending HIV test results.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5402a1.htm>

- The DNA President’s initiative document might be a helpful document, although it says the testing is not part of the exam – we don’t consider it part of the forensic exam, but we do offer it as an additional service to streamline the process of meeting the patient’s needs.

http://samfe.dna.gov/examination_process/sti_evaluation_care/hiv/