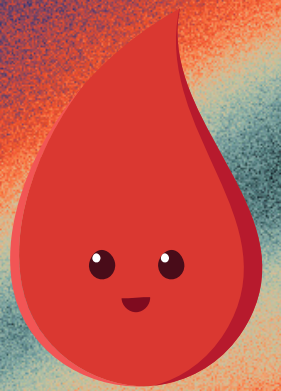


BBV Testing

(Blood-borne virus)



What are blood borne viruses?

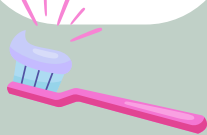
Blood-borne viruses (BBVs) are viruses that can be carried in blood. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C are the three main BBVs in Australia.

Who can get tested?

Anyone can get a BBV. If you have:

Shared needles or injecting equipment

Shared toothbrushes or razors



Shared tattoo or piercing equipment

Had unprotected sex



You should get a BBV test.

How often should I get tested?

Immediately
if you have symptoms or a partner has tested positive



Every 3 months
if you have multiple casual partners



Once a year
Everyone should get tested once a year, even if you haven't changed partners

What does the test involve?

1. Health questionnaire

Before the test, you will be asked to fill out a form which will ask things like your sexual history and what types of sex you are having. It is super important to answer these questions honestly as it will help the doctor or nurse test you correctly.



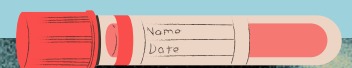
2. Consultation

The health professional will chat about the details you have given in the health questionnaire and then inform you about what tests you will be given and how to do them. You have the right to ask to be tested for any BBV or STI regardless of doctors suggestions.



3. Blood test

A true BBV test ALWAYS requires a blood test. The blood test can only be done by a health professional. When getting tested, ask them to test for HIV, Hep B and Hep C (and syphilis while you're there). It's also simple to get tested for STIs at the same time. These include self collection urine tests and swabs.



What happens if I test positive?

Know that there are treatment and management options available. Remember management means that people with chronic BBVs live long, healthy lives

Inform current and/or previous sexual partners. You can tell them yourself, ask the clinician if they could do it for you or use anonymous sites such as The Drama Downunder, Better to Know and Let Them Know

Follow the doctors recommendations e.g. refrain from sex

Stigma is real and a positive result can impact your mental health
Support is out there whether that be friends, family or support services

