

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**Talking Points for Introducing Assisted Partner Notification to Index Clients**

* **Explain the importance** of ensuring that all partners get tested for HIV.
  + HIV-positive partners can start on HIV treatment to keep them healthy and reduce risk that they will pass HIV to other sex partners and/or children.
  + HIV-negative partners can access HIV prevention services to help them remain HIV-negative, including condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and male circumcision.
* **Inform the index client that:** 
  + The clinic is offering Assisted Partner Notification to assist the client to contact their partners so that these partners can learn their HIV status.
  + The service is offered because we know disclosure of HIV status to partners can be difficult.
  + You will ask the client to list the names of all persons they have had sex with, including people they may have only had sex with one time. If there are also persons the client has shared needles with, you will also ask for their names.
  + You will also ask for the names any child(ren) who may need an HIV test.
* **Inform the client that there are 3 options** for contacting their partners using “Options for Notifying Your Partner about HIV” Job Aid:
  1. Client can contact their partner to let them know they should be tested for HIV (Self-notification);
  2. Client can contact their partner within 2 weeks, after which the provider will assist with notification if the partner hasn’t been tested (Assisted notification);
  3. Partner services focal point can contact partners directly, without telling them the client’s name (anonymously) (Provider notification).
* **If the client chooses option (2),** they will have 2 weeks to bring in or refer their partner for HTS.
  + If the partner does not come in for testing after 1 week, the partner services focal point will remind the index client to notify the partner.
  + If the partner does not come in for testing after 2 weeks, the partner services focal point will contact and notify the partner.
* **Inform the index client that:**
  + All information will be kept confidential. This means that:
    - Partners will NOT be told the index client’s name or test results.
    - The index client will NOT be told the HIV test results of their partner(s) or whether or not their partner(s) actually tested for HIV.
  + You will NOT contact the partner without first contacting them to get their permission.
  + They will continue to receive the same level of care at this health facility regardless of whether they choose to participate in partner notification services.
* **Answer any questions** that the index client might have and obtain verbal consent to continue.
* Use the **Assisted Partner Notification (APN) Register** to record contact information for the index client.