



## AN HIV SELF-TESTING PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL HAVE READ ON THE WHEN YOU AGREED TO JOIN SELPHI. PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND KEEP FOR YOUR REFERENCE.**

### INTRODUCTION

#### TEST YOURSELF FOR HIV – IT'S FAST & EASY

HIV tests are already free in the UK - at any sexual health clinic or GP surgery. But sometimes it is difficult to find time to visit a clinic. And some people prefer not to ask their GP.

This study (SELPHI) is looking at a different option - HIV testing that you do yourself. The study compares getting a free HIV self-test to not getting a free test.

The results of the study will help the NHS decide if self-tests for HIV should be available for free.

If you decide to join this study you will have the chance to get one or more free HIV self-tests. These tests normally cost £30.

#### Self-testing means:

- A self-test is sent to you in the post
- You can test yourself when and where you want
- You don't have to go to a clinic or the GP
- You test using a finger prick of blood
- You get your own results in about 15 minutes

The study will compare results from people who get a self-test to those who do not. Because the study needs to compare these different approaches, not everyone will get a self-test. However, more than half the people in the study will get a self-test.

There are three main things you need to understand before deciding to take part in SELPHI:

- 1. HIV self-tests: who will get them and what is involved**
- 2. Online surveys in SELPHI**
- 3. How will we use your information?**

## **1. HIV SELF-TESTS: WHO WILL GET THEM AND WHAT IS INVOLVED?**

### **Who will get the HIV self-tests?**

60% of people in SELPHI will get a free self-test (this is 3 in 5 people). For the study to work, we need two groups of people to compare, which means not everyone will get a self-test kit.

Your participation in SELPHI (whether or not you get a kit) will go a long way to helping us find out if giving out self-tests for HIV is a good way of providing HIV testing.

### **What is involved?**

Self-testing involves you taking a few drops of blood by pricking your finger. The kit will come with instructions on how to take the sample and how to read the result. The kit also contains advice on how to deal with the test result, whichever result you get. You may wish to take the test with a friend or family member for support.

If you have a positive test result, you will need to confirm the result at a clinic, where additional support is available. We will ask you in the online surveys about your test results, but you don't have to tell us if you don't want to.

[Click here](#) to see a video of how to use the HIV self-test kit. The test we are using in SELPHI is made by BioSURE.

If you are offered a free self-test, you will need to provide us with your name and postal address. We will give this to the kit manufacturer (BioSURE) to post your free self-test kit to you.

- All addresses will be transferred to BioSURE securely and confidentially
- They will not share your details with anyone else
- They will not use your address for anything else
- They will not keep your address securely in case they need to recall your test for some reason.
- They will not keep your details after the study finishes
- All self-test kits will be posted in plain packaging
- The package will easily fit through most letter boxes

As well as any testing you do in the study, you may wish to continue testing elsewhere for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

## 2. ONLINE SURVEYS IN SELPHI

An important part of SELPHI involves you providing other information in online surveys. Each survey will ask you about your sex life and tests for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). We will also ask people who get the self-test about how easy it is to use.

- **All surveys will be online.** You will need access to the internet to complete the surveys. This can be done using a smartphone, tablet or computer.
- **All surveys are confidential.**
- **Each survey should only take 5-10 minutes.**
- **Everyone in SELPHI is asked to complete the surveys.** Even if you do not get a self-test your help with the survey is important.
- **The surveys are only for SELPHI.** They will not be passed on to the test kit provider.
- **Everyone will be sent a survey three months after joining SELPHI.** If you get a self-test kit, we may send you additional surveys every 3 months. You may also have the chance to get more self-tests.
- **Everyone will be sent a final survey when SELPHI comes to an end.** This is probably going to be 2 or 3 years' time.
- **All survey reminders will be sent by email.** You need to have an active email address to join.
- We would like a mobile phone number to send you a text message in case there is a problem with the email.

If you don't want anyone to know you have joined SELPHI you should make sure you have a secure email account with a strong password.

## 3. HOW WILL WE USE YOUR INFORMATION?

**The results of the study will help the NHS decide if self-tests for HIV should be available for free.**

The information you provide to us will help us to answer that question. The results of the study will be used to write scientific papers for publication in medical journals. These papers will not include any of your personally identifiable information.

**If you receive a free HIV self-test we will provide your delivery address to the supplier who will send this in the post to you.**

They will store your details confidentially for regulatory purposes in case they are required to recall your test kit for some reason.

**During the course of the study, SELPHI will use your personal information to find out if you have been diagnosed with HIV at a clinic in the UK.**

To do this we will check if you have appeared in a database of all people diagnosed with HIV which is held by Public Health England (PHE). We will use information such as your postcode, date of birth, initials and a coded anonymised version of your surname.

**If you can provide a sexual health clinic patient number, this will also be very helpful.** We would like to check different PHE databases to find out if you have attended a sexual health clinic for any other reason. This is so that we can see if offering free HIV self-tests changes how often people attend clinics.

**Your personal information will not be used for any other purposes.**

## CONSENT

In order to join SELPHI you have agreed that you are happy with the following statements.

That means you are now fully registered for the study.

-  I understand that if I join SELPHI, there is a 3 in 5 (60%) chance of getting at least one free HIV self-test.
-  I understand that the HIV self-test will be free.  
I can use it where and when I like.  
I understand that the test uses a drop of blood.
-  I understand that I will be asked to answer two or more short online surveys.  
The surveys are needed even if I do not get a free HIV self-test.  
I may be offered additional tests over the following 2-3 years.  
I may be asked to complete a short survey every three months.  
I will be asked to complete a survey at the end of the study in 2-3 years' time.
-  I understand that some personal information will be checked against information routinely collected by Public Health England.  
I agree to provide information for this purpose.
-  I understand if I am randomly selected to receive a free HIV self-test my delivery address will be provided to the supplier.  
This will be retained for regulatory reasons only.  
I agree to provide information for this purpose.
-  I understand that all messages about SELPHI will come to an email address that I will provide.
-  I have read and understood the information provided about SELPHI.
-  I agree to join SELPHI.

If you think you have changed your mind and you no longer want to be part of the SELPHI study please contact us using the link in your email from us or via the website.