

## The Early Test<sup>®</sup>

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between the Rapid Test and the Early Test<sup>®</sup>?

**The Rapid HIV Test detects antibodies which your body has made, in response to the presence of HIV infection. It takes from 4 to 12 weeks, after being infected for these antibodies to be detectable.**

**The Early Test<sup>®</sup> detects the actual presence of the HIV (virus). The virus is detectable 7 days after the person is infected.**

**If the Rapid Test shows the person to be HIV antibody preliminary positive, a different type of Early Test<sup>®</sup> is done, to determine if the person has an acute or recent HIV infection.**

2. Can I just do the Early Test<sup>®</sup> and skip the Rapid Test?

**No, the Rapid Test is required. The Early Test<sup>®</sup> is being offered by UCSD as part of a research study. The results obtained from the Rapid Test will determine which type of Early Test<sup>®</sup> is done.**

3. Is the Early Test<sup>®</sup> confidential or anonymous?

**The Early Test<sup>®</sup> is confidential. In the event that further testing is required, or that the virus for HIV is detected, a nurse from UCSD will contact you directly.**

4. Do I get my Early Test<sup>®</sup> results today?

**No, the Early Test<sup>®</sup> requires that blood is taken from your vein, and then is sent to a laboratory for analysis.**

**Getting results is easy. You will be given a card today with your unique identifier number on it. Two weeks from today, you will be able to access your negative results from a secure web site or by a voice mail service, using that identifier number. It takes less than a minute!**

**In the event that further testing is required, or that the virus for HIV is detected, a nurse from UCSD will contact you directly.**

5. What happens if I lose the card that has my unique identifier number on it?

**You would have to return to the test site and be re-tested. However if your results were positive and you had given accurate contact information, UCSD would have contacted you regarding those results.**