



STIGMA

IN

HEALTHCARE  
SETTINGS

**R.A.P.I.D**

RESEARCH AND PREVENTION  
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
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# REDUCING HIV STIGMA IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

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Strategies to reduce stigma around HIV prevention and care in your healthcare setting:

## **Implement routine HIV testing**

- Integrating routine, opt-out HIV screening as part of every patient's yearly lab test can effectively reduce rates of perceived provider prejudice.

## **Take sexual histories**

- Taking a patient's sexual history not only provides insight for medical providers but can also reduce stigma by normalizing all sexual behaviors and identities.

## **Offer at-home testing kits**

- At-home HIV test kits, such as OraQuick, provide a safe and private option for individuals to receive their HIV test results without being impacted by stigma.

## **Provide supportive resources**

- Help combat stigma by displaying signage and providing materials in medical spaces that dispel myths about how HIV is and isn't transmitted, outline their routine HIV testing procedures, and encourage patients to feel comfortable inquiring about HIV screening and treatment.

## **Conduct training for medical staff**

- Training for medical staff focusing on combatting stigma and improving patient-provider relationships has been shown to improve provider perceptions of patients with HIV and their confidence in being able to provide high-quality care.