

NAM's email bulletin of HIV prevention news

It's free. Sign up today:

www.aidsmap.com/hpe

Since 2012, the Department of Health has funded a national programme of HIV prevention for gay men, other men who have sex with men, and African communities in England. It is called HIV Prevention England (HPE).

As part of the programme, NAM provides a regular, concise update on the evolving evidence, news and policy of interest to people providing, commissioning or influencing HIV prevention work in England.

To sign up for the free email bulletin visit www.aidsmap.com/hpe or email info@nam.org.uk for more information.



Having problems reading this email? [View it in your browser >>](#)

nam aidsmap
HIV prevention news England

Produced by NAM for
HIV PREVENTION ENGLAND

06 May 2015

- First HIV home test approved for sale
- Rectal STIs don't increase infectiousness
- Newly adopted risk behaviours predict HIV infection
- PrEP for African women
- HIV testing in people with other medical conditions
- Other recent news headlines
- Editors' picks from other sources

First HIV home test approved for sale

The BioSure HIV Self Test, designed to be used by untrained users at home has been granted a CE mark, making it the first HIV home test which can be legally sold in the United Kingdom. The legal ban on HIV home testing was lifted a year ago, but until now no manufacturer has produced a test with a CE mark for self-testing, indicating that the test conforms to minimum European standards.

The BioSure test is simple to use and tests for the presence of HIV antibodies in a drop of blood from a finger. There's no need to send a sample to a laboratory. The test's window period is three months.

The test is based on a device that is already in widespread use by health professionals. Several studies have shown that when used by professionals, the device is highly accurate. *American regulators judged the test's sensitivity* (proportion of HIV-positive samples accurately described as such) to be 99.7% and its specificity (proportion of HIV-negative samples accurately described as such) to be 99.9%.

BioSure believes that this is the most suitable device to be adapted for home testing – simple to operate, with an easy-to-read result, accurate, and hard to tamper with. They have developed clear instructions to guide people through the steps of taking a test. *The studies they submitted to gain the CE mark* showed that the untrained users were able to get just as accurate results with the self-test as healthcare professionals did with the previous version.

For the moment, the test is only available through [BioSure's website](#) or from the [Freedoms Shop](#), a service which also sells low-cost condoms and lubricant. Through either channel, the test costs £29.95. But if self-testing proves to be an effective way to engage people who are reluctant to use existing testing services, it could be appropriate for NHS services and community organisations to provide the test free

HIV Prevention England

This e-bulletin is published by NAM for the HIV Prevention England programme, in partnership with Terrence Higgins Trust, funded by the Department of Health.