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## Feedback from HIV Point of Care Testing Questionnaire

### Overview

In March 2009 a questionnaire regarding HIV Point of Care Testing (POCT) was sent to 293 GUM clinics in the UK.

Seventy-two centres returned a completed questionnaire (24.6%). Of the 72 responses:

- Twenty-one (29.2%) centres currently test for HIV using a POCT assay
- Forty-one (56.9%) are considering introducing HIV POCT in the future

### Kits used for HIV POCT

Of the 21 centres that currently test for HIV using a POCT assay, three centres used two kits, whilst 1 centre used three kits. The most popular kit was Determine HIV-1/2 (n=11), followed by OraQuick HIV-1/2 (n=8). The 'other' kit reported was the INSTI HIV-1/HIV-2 Antibody Test.

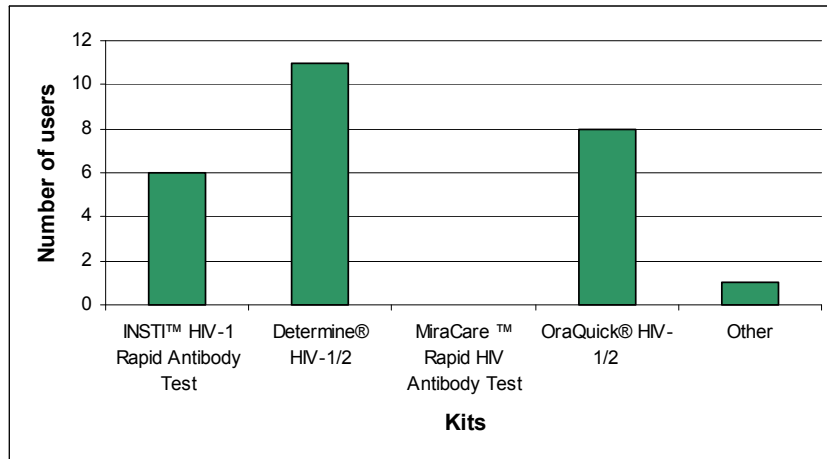


Figure 1. Kits used for HIV POCT (n=26)

### Frequency of testing using POCT assays and the number of tests carried out

Of the 21 centres currently testing for HIV with POCT assays, eight perform tests everyday, nine perform tests once a week and one performs tests very rarely. The three centres that stated 'other' included one that tested fortnightly and two that tested twice a week (fig. 2). The majority of the centres (14/21) only carry out 1 to 5 tests per session. Per month, nine (42.8%) centres perform <10 tests, whilst a further eight perform 10 to 50 tests (fig. 3).

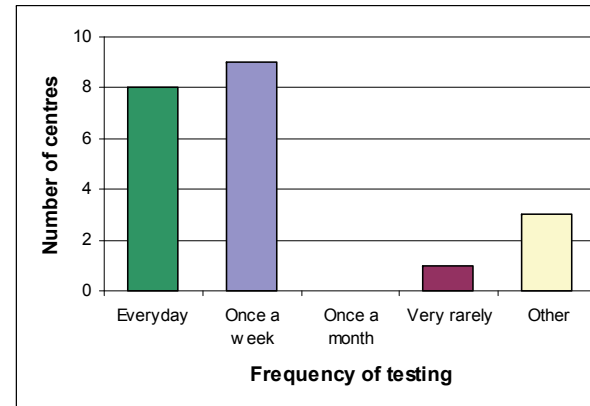


Figure 2. Frequency of HIV POCT

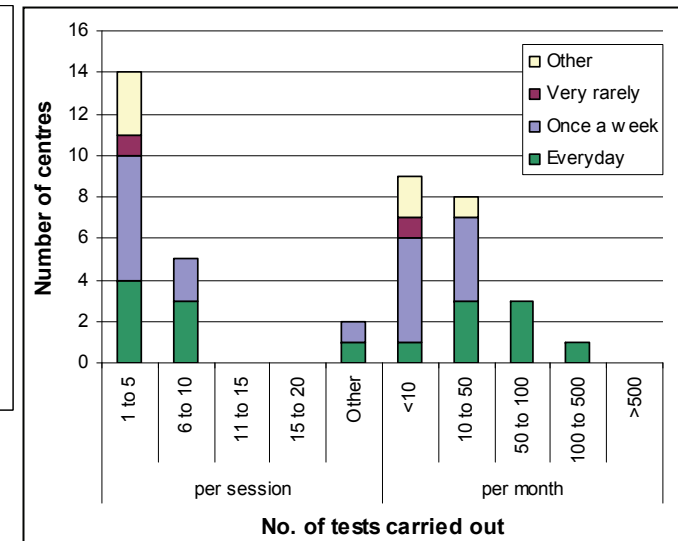


Figure 3. Number of HIV POCTs carried out per session and per month

### Sample types and volume

All assays were valid for whole blood, plasma & serum sample types with the exception of OraQuick which was valid for whole blood, plasma & oral fluid. The most popular sample type reported was whole blood (19/21). Therefore it would be appropriate for any EQA sample developed for HIV POCT to be in a whole blood format. The most popular sample volume required was <100µL (n=17) and one centre reported <200µL. The two centres that reported 'other' stated oral fluid sample with no specific volume, whilst one centre did not specify the sample volume required.