

HIV Factsheet

How up-to-date are you?

- 94% of people diagnosed with HIV in Scotland, who are on treatment, are not infectious as they have an undetectable viral load.
- HIV tourism is a myth.
- In Scotland, the most common ways HIV can be transmitted are:
 - sexually (98%)
 - through sharing injecting equipment (2%)
- 99.5% of babies born to HIV positive women in the UK are free from HIV.
- HIV is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. It is illegal to treat someone differently because they are living with HIV.
- Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) apply to all staff, in all settings, at all times and for all patients, whether you know their HIV status or not. Following the SICPs means that all patients are treated the same and there is no requirement for double gloving or any other special measures.

HIV & Person Centred Care

- There is no need to ask someone living with HIV how they acquired it.
- Confidentiality is essential – someone's HIV status is not a piece of information to be shared lightly and should not be flagged on people's notes.
- Please be confident in treating and prescribing medication to people living with HIV.
 - Unsure about drug interactions? Visit hiv-druginteractions.org to check.
 - Not all symptoms are related to HIV. People on treatment and with a CD4 count of 350+ are much less susceptible to opportunistic infections.

