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## Recommendations

We recommend that: HIVST be adopted as a testing approach for all people who may require regular rapid HIV testing due to ongoing risk of exposure on opt-out basis; Adequate pre and post “self-testing” counselling information should be provided to all people who intend to perform self-testing in order to eliminate possible psychological stress arising from performing the procedure. There is need to study linkage to care after HIV self-testing as it was a concern during the qualitative assessment but was not addressed by our study. A multi-model approach to distributing HIV self-testing kits is necessary since there is no single model that well applies to all categories of KPs and PPs on PrEP.

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## Authors' Contributions

John Bosco Matovu Junior, Jayne Tusiime Byakika, Roy William Mayega and Sylvia Nalubega: All participated equally in conception of the research project, study design, literature review, data extraction, data analysis, interpretation, and drafting the manuscript. Manuscript review, and edition and validation.

## Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

The Busitema University Faculty of Health Sciences Higher Degrees and Research Committee approved the study as well as the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital Research and Ethics Committee (Ref No. MRRH-REC-IN-COM 024/2018). All respondents provided a written informed consent except two emancipated minors aged 17 years belonging to the adolescent girls and young women category for whom written informed consent was obtained from each of their guardians before enrolment. Clients were free to opt out of the study at any stage they felt like, and one participant did. In order to maintain confidentiality, qualitative data was kept in the audio recorder, and was only accessed by the research team, while all paperwork generated during the interviews was stored in a ziplock opaque bag. No client name was appended on the questionnaire. All those who tested HIV positive on HIVST (5 clients) were linked for further confirmatory testing according to the national HIV testing algorithm and out of the 5 respondents, 4 were confirmed positive and were linked to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) clinic for initiation.

## Availability of Data and Materials

The datasets used and/or analysed plus data collection instruments used during the study are available via this link <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XLBZXD>

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## Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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