

# PATIENTS RIGHTS CHARTER



**Testing:** No one shall be forced to undergo a HIV test as a precondition for and/ continued enjoyment of **employment, marriage, admission** into any educational institution, **entry** into or travel out of Sierra Leone, **provision of healthcare, medical insurance** or any other service.

**Consent to HIV test:** Each person has the right to choose to take an HIV test by giving **voluntary informed consent** (written or oral). A patient has a right to information before giving consent, in what is called **pretest** counselling, and for information after testing, called **posttest** counselling.



**Disclosure of information:** A patient's medical record including HIV test results are confidential and will not be disclosed to a third party without the patient's informed consent unless it's by a court order; or to a healthcare worker who is directly involved in providing care to the patient and the diagnosis is relevant to making clinical decisions



**Access to health care services:** Any person living with HIV has a right to access health care services in any facility of their choice without being discriminated upon on the basis of their HIV status.  
The Government has taken steps to make affordable some essential healthcare services for adults and children living with or exposed to HIV

**Prevention of HIV Transmission: Post exposure prophylaxis** will be available for anyone who has been exposed to risk of HIV infection.

**Universal Precautions:** Healthcare providers shall at all times observe universal precautions when **giving care to all patients regardless of their HIV status**



## Every patient or client has the following responsibilities:

- ✓ Take their treatment/medication as prescribed by the healthcare provider
- ✓ Respect their appointment dates
- ✓ To take care of all medical documents in their possession
- ✓ Consult with the healthcare provider on anything involving their medical condition and treatment
- ✓ Fully explain to the healthcare provider how are they feeling for proper care and management
- ✓ All HIV positive pregnant women and their partners should take advantage of PMTCT services

**Discrimination:** No individual shall be discriminated upon on basis of known or suspected HIV status.

## Every patient has a right to:

- ✓ Confidentiality and privacy
- ✓ Equal and non-discriminatory treatment
- ✓ Access to acceptable, affordable, quality healthcare services
- ✓ Be free from all forms of violence (including gender based violence)
- ✓ access a support group of their choice

**PENALTY:** Any person who contravenes any of the above commits an offence and is liable to a ***fine not exceeding twenty million Leones (20,000,000) or to a term of imprisonment not less than five years or to both the fine and imprisonment***

