

*NURSING CONSULTATION IN HIV TESTING IN PRIMARY CARE: SCOPING REVIEW PROTOCOL*

**CONSULTA DE ENFERMAGEM NA TESTAGEM PARA HIV NA ATENÇÃO PRIMÁRIA: PROTOCOLO DE REVISÃO DE ESCOPO**

**CONSULTA DE ENFERMERÍA EN PRUEBAS DE VIH EN ATENCIÓN PRIMARIA: PROTOCOLO DE REVISIÓN DE ALCANCE**

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**ABSTRACT**

The expansion of the role of Primary Health Care (PHC) in HIV prevention and testing is a relevant advance in the fight against the infection. However, challenges related to the continuity of care persist, since part of the users, after testing, encounter barriers in accessing specialized care services, which can compromise the timely initiation of treatment and adequate clinical follow-up. Thus, the nursing consultation is a central element, as it enables qualified reception, a bond between the professional and the user, and a positive diagnostic experience. **Objective:** to map the available scientific evidence on nursing consultations in HIV testing in Primary Health Care. **Method:** scoping review protocol according to the Joana Briggs Institute guidelines. The research question was formulated according to the PCC mnemonic: "What is the scientific evidence about the nursing consultation in HIV testing in Primary Health Care?". Searches will be carried out on the following platforms: Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online; CAPES Periodicals Portal, CINAHL and Scientific Electronic Library Online and gray literature through Google scholar. After the exclusion of the duplicates in the Zotero software, the studies will be exported to the Rayyan software for the selection stage, obeying the eligibility criteria. Research will be reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses Extension for Scoping Review. It is expected to identify and map a set of scientific evidence on nursing consultations in HIV testing in Primary Health Care.

**Keywords:** HIV; Guidelines as Topic; Office Nursing; Primary Health Care.

**RESUMO**

**Introdução:** A ampliação da atuação da Atenção Primária à Saúde (APS) na prevenção e na testagem do HIV configura-se como um avanço relevante no enfrentamento da infecção. Entretanto, persistem desafios relacionados à continuidade do cuidado, uma vez que parte dos usuários, após a testagem, encontra barreiras no acesso aos serviços de atenção especializada, o que pode comprometer o início oportuno do tratamento e o adequado acompanhamento clínico. Desse modo, a consulta de enfermagem constitui um elemento central, ao possibilitar acolhimento qualificado, vínculo entre o profissional e usuário e experiência diagnóstica positiva. **Objetivo:** mapear as evidências científicas disponíveis sobre a consulta de enfermagem na testagem para HIV na Atenção Primária à Saúde. **Método:** protocolo de revisão de escopo segundo as orientações Joana Briggs Institute. A questão de pesquisa foi formulada conforme o mnemônico PCC: "Quais as evidências científicas sobre a consulta de enfermagem na testagem do HIV na Atenção Primária à Saúde?". As buscas serão realizadas nas seguintes plataformas: Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online; Portal de Periódicos da CAPES, CINAHL e Scientific Electronic Library Online e literatura cinzenta através do Google acadêmico. Após a exclusão das duplicatas no software Zotero, os estudos serão exportados para o software Rayyan para a etapa de seleção, obedecendo aos critérios de elegibilidade. A pesquisa será reportada de acordo com o *Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses Extension for Scoping Review*. Espera-se identificar e mapear um conjunto de evidências científicas sobre consulta de enfermagem na testagem para HIV na Atenção Primária à Saúde.

**Palavras-chave:** HIV; Guia como Assunto; Enfermagem Ambulatorial; Atenção Primária à saúde.

**RESUMEN**

**Introducción:** La ampliación del papel de la Atención Primaria de Salud (PHC) en la prevención y la prueba del VIH es un avance relevante en la lucha contra la infección. Sin embargo, persisten desafíos relacionados con la continuidad de la atención, ya que parte de los usuarios, tras las pruebas, se enfrenta a barreras para acceder a servicios de atención especializada, lo que puede comprometer el inicio oportuno del tratamiento y un seguimiento clínico adecuado. Así, la consulta de enfermería es un elemento central, ya que permite una recepción cualificada, un vínculo entre el profesional y el usuario, y una experiencia diagnóstica positiva. **Objetivo:** mapear la evidencia científica disponible sobre las consultas de enfermería en la prueba del VIH en la Atención Primaria de Salud. **Método:** protocolo de revisión de alcance según las directrices del Instituto Joana Briggs. La pregunta de investigación se formuló de acuerdo con la mnemotécnica del PCC: "¿Cuál es la evidencia científica sobre la consulta de enfermería en la prueba del VIH en la Atención Primaria de Salud?". Las búsquedas se realizarán en las siguientes plataformas: Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud, Análisis de Literatura Médica y Sistema de Recuperación en Línea; Portal de Publicaciones Periódicas CAPES, CINAHL y Biblioteca Electrónica Científica En línea y literatura gris a través de Google scholar. Después de la exclusión de los duplicados en el software Zotero, los estudios se exportarán al software Rayyan para la etapa de selección, obedeciendo a los criterios de elegibilidad. La investigación se informará de acuerdo con los elementos de informe preferidos para revisiones sistemáticas y la extensión de metaanálisis para revisión de alcance. Se espera identificar y mapear un conjunto de evidencia científica sobre las consultas de enfermería en las pruebas de VIH en la Atención Primaria de Salud.

**Palabras-Clave:** VIH; Guías como Asunto; Enfermería de Consulta; Atención Primaria de Salud.

## INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, the first cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) were identified in the early 1980s, initially registered among men who have sex with men, intravenous drug users, and hemophiliacs. The scenario of the epidemic in Brazil has undergone significant changes due to universal access to treatment and prevention of infection by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In recent years, Brazil has registered significant progress in tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with a reduction in the AIDS mortality rate, reaching 3.9 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in 2023, the lowest value since 2013, in addition to maintaining the vertical transmission rate below 2%, as stipulated by national guidelines. These indicators reflect structural and programmatic improvements resulting from expanded access to early diagnosis, universal antiretroviral treatment, and improved prenatal care, consolidating HIV as a chronic condition and promoting increases in life expectancy and quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) <sup>(1)</sup>.

These results highlight the positive impact of public policies on epidemiological surveillance, prevention, and comprehensive care, but on the other hand, they reveal persistent challenges. From the 2000s onwards, the Ministry of Health began recommending decentralized models, including primary health care (PHC) in the care of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). However, the Specialized Care Service (SAE) still centralizes a large part

of the care, configuring itself as an outpatient unit focused on Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV/AIDS, and Viral Hepatitis, supported by the Health Care Networks <sup>(2)</sup>. Despite the expansion of PHC's role in prevention and, from 2012 onwards, in HIV testing, difficulties in continuity of care are still observed, given that some users, after testing, encounter barriers in accessing specialized services for adequate treatment and follow-up <sup>(3)</sup>.

Internationally, the HIV epidemic remains a significant public health problem. Despite advances, control still represents the confrontation of stigma and the strengthening of adherence to treatment as important challenges. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in its Global Strategy 2021-2026, set the goal of ending AIDS as a public health problem by 2030, proposing the achievement of the 95-95-95 targets: that 95% of people know their diagnosis, that 95% are on treatment, and that 95% have viral suppression. Brazil is among the list of just over thirty countries that together account for 89% of new infections worldwide, reinforcing the need for consistent actions to achieve international targets <sup>(4)</sup>.

In this scenario, nursing consultation constitutes a central element, enabling qualified reception, establishing a bond between the professional and the user, and a positive diagnostic experience. However, the absence of specific protocols for this practice in primary health care can compromise continuity of care, favor the occurrence of inefficient reception,

weaken the bond between professionals and users, and hinder adherence to treatment, culminating in unqualified care <sup>(5)</sup>. It is also noteworthy that structural and care factors negatively influence adherence to antiretroviral therapy; in this context, it becomes necessary to restructure nursing practices in order to standardize interventions and use tools that enhance care <sup>(6)</sup>.

Despite the relevance of the topic, no similar reviews or protocols in progress were identified in the Open Science Framework (OSF) in searches conducted in November 2024 and updated in August 2025, although primary studies on the subject exist. This gap reinforces the relevance of this study, which aims to contribute to the adaptation, validation, and implementation of a nursing consultation protocol for HIV testing in primary health care, with a view to standardizing care practices and improving the quality of care. Thus, the objective of this research is to map the available scientific evidence on nursing consultations for HIV testing in Primary Health Care.

**METHODS**

This literature review protocol, based on the Joana Briggs Institute (JBI) Manual for Evidence Synthesis <sup>(7)</sup>, aims to map and explore existing evidence through the literature found. Scoping review research has become prominent

worldwide for providing health evidence and syntheses that support professional practice. The purpose of a scoping review is to gather the literature, as in a mapping exercise, focusing on a thematic field, unifying different types and designs of studies, and recognizing what has been produced on the subject. To this end, the following steps will be followed: 1- Determine and align the objective and the research question; 2- Develop and align the inclusion criteria with the objective and the research question; 3- Specify the planned strategy for searching, selecting, extracting data, and presenting evidence; 4- Search for evidence; 5- Select the evidence; 6- Extract the evidence.

The study will be reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) guidelines <sup>(8)</sup>. The scoping review protocol is available on the OSF platform: DOI10.17605/OSF.IO/Q2XJC.

**Review Question**

The research question was formulated using the PCC acronym, which refers to Population, Concept, and Context. Thus, the following research question was developed: What is the scientific evidence regarding nursing consultation in HIV testing in Primary Health Care? (Chart 1).

**Chart 1** – PCC acronym for formulating the research question. Rio das Ostras, RJ, Brazil, 2025.

Acronym	Description
Population	Individuals seen in nursing consultations for HIV testing.



<b>Concept</b>	Nursing consultation for HIV testing or HIV diagnosis.
<b>Context</b>	Primary health care.

**Source:** Prepared by the authors, 2025

### Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria will follow the acronym PCC. There will be no timeline, and the preferred languages will be English, Brazilian Portuguese, and Spanish.

For the population, the criteria will include studies involving adult and elderly patients seen in Nursing Consultations for HIV testing in Primary Health Care (PHC), as well as studies that address HIV/AIDS diagnosis in PHC.

Regarding the concept, studies involving nursing consultations for HIV testing and HIV diagnosis will be included. In this context, studies conducted in Primary Health Care, Basic Care, as well as studies investigating nursing consultations in PHC in different geographic regions and socioeconomic contexts will be included.

### Types of Evidence Sources

This review will use scientific sources, including studies with qualitative, quantitative, and mixed approaches, according to the defined inclusion criteria. The research will include scientific studies in general on the topic, in their different modalities, and may include theses and dissertations. Theoretical essays and editorials will be excluded.

Theoretical essays and editorials were excluded from this review because the objective is to map scientific evidence based on empirical data that can provide practical support and are grounded for the implementation of nursing consultation protocols for HIV testing in primary health care. Theoretical essays, in turn, while important for the development of concepts and theories, do not provide concrete data or results from experimental or observational studies that can be directly applied in clinical practice. Similarly, editorials generally express the authors' personal opinions or interpretations and do not undergo a rigorous data collection and analysis process, which limits their usefulness for synthesizing evidence in a scoping review. Therefore, the exclusion of these types of publications aims to ensure that the review results are based on solid evidence applicable to clinical practice.

### Search Strategy

The initial search strategy was developed with the help of a professional librarian. Regarding the search and selection of articles, this will be carried out considering: keyword searches in titles and abstracts; the adoption of keywords for searching databases; and searching databases using previously established eligibility criteria.



Based on the PCC acronym, a mapping of keywords by their descriptors in the controlled vocabulary of the health area will be performed. These are: Health Sciences Descriptors (DeCS) and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and entry terms (Chart 2). To form the best search strategies for each database, controlled descriptors and free terms will be used, combined with the Boolean operators OR and AND, as described below (Chart 3).

The following databases will be used for the review: Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS) via

BVS, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (Medline) via PubMed, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), and the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) portal. Regarding grey literature, Google Scholar, the Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD), and websites of national and international institutions such as the Ministry of Health and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) will be considered.

**Chart 2** – Descriptors in Health Sciences (DeCS) and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and entry terms. Rio das Ostras, RJ, Brazil, 2025.

Acronym	DECS	Mesh	Entry Terms
P	HIV; Teste de HIV Diagnóstico HIV Soropositividade para HIV Síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida	HIV HIV testing HIV diagnosis HIV infections Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	Human Immunodeficiency Virus  HIV/AIDS Test  HIV Seroconversion
C	Avaliação em enfermagem Enfermagem Ambulatorial Enfermagem em Saúde Pública Enfermagem de Atenção Primária Guias como assunto	Nursing Assessment Office Nursing Public Health Nursing Primary Care Nursing Guidelines as topic protocol	Nursing Protocols  Nursing Consultation Nursing in the Office
C	Atenção Primária à Saúde (APS) Atenção Básica	Primary Health Care	Basic Health Care  Primary Health Care



Source: Prepared by the authors, 2025.

**Chart 3** – Search strategy for the scoping review. Rio das Ostras, RJ, Brazil, 2025.

	Search Strategy	Items found
#1	HIV OR “Teste de HIV” OR “Diagnóstico HIV” OR “Soropositividade para HIV” OR “síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida” OR “HIV testing” OR “HIV diagnosis” OR “HIV infections” OR “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana” OR “Teste de HIV-AIDS” OR “Soroconversão para HIV” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana”	47.415
#2	“Avaliação em enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem Ambulatorial” OR “Enfermagem em Saúde Pública” OR “Enfermagem de Atenção Primária” OR “Guias como assunto” OR “Nursing Assessment” OR “Office Nursing” OR “Public Health Nursing” OR “Primary Care Nursing” OR “Guidelines as topic” OR “Protocolos de Enfermagem” OR “Consulta de Enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem no Consultório”	4451
#3	“Atenção Primária à Saúde” OR “Atenção Básica” OR “Primary Health Care” OR “Atenção Básica à Saúde” OR “Atenção primária de saúde” OR “Atenção primária em saúde”	12.967
#1 + 2 + 3	HIV OR “Teste de HIV” OR “Diagnóstico HIV” OR “Soropositividade para HIV” OR “síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida” OR “HIV testing” OR “HIV diagnosis” OR “HIV infections” OR “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana” OR “Teste de HIV-AIDS” OR “Soroconversão para HIV” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana” AND “Avaliação em enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem Ambulatorial” OR “Enfermagem em Saúde Pública” OR “Enfermagem de Atenção Primária” OR “Guias como assunto” OR “Nursing Assessment” OR “Office Nursing” OR “Public Health Nursing” OR “Primary Care Nursing” OR “Guidelines as topic” OR “Protocolos de Enfermagem” OR “Consulta de Enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem no Consultório” AND “Atenção Primária à Saúde” OR “Atenção Básica” OR “Primary Health Care” OR “Atenção Básica à Saúde” OR “Atenção primária de saúde” OR “Atenção primária em saúde”	12.964

Source: Prepared by the authors, 2025.

**Chart 4** – Record of searches in databases and search strategies for publications. Rio das Ostras, RJ, Brazil, 2025.

Source of Information	Search Strategy	Items found
LILACS	((("HIV testing" OR "HIV diagnosis" OR "HIV infections") AND ("Nursing Assessment" OR "Office Nursing" OR "Public Health Nursing"))) AND (Primary Health Care)	31
MEDLINE	((("HIV testing" OR "HIV diagnosis" OR "HIV infections") AND ("Nursing Assessment" OR "Office Nursing" OR "Public Health Nursing"))) AND (Primary Health Care)	29
Portal CAPES	((("HIV testing" OR "HIV diagnosis" OR "HIV infections") AND ("Nursing Assessment" OR "Office Nursing" OR "Public Health Nursing") AND (Primary Health Care))	185
CINAHL	((HIV OR “Teste de HIV” OR “Diagnóstico HIV” OR “Soropositividade para HIV” OR “síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida” OR “HIV testing” OR “HIV diagnosis” OR “HIV infections” OR “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana” OR “Teste de HIV-AIDS” OR “Soroconversão para HIV” OR “Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana”) AND (“Avaliação em enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem Ambulatorial” OR “Enfermagem em Saúde Pública” OR “Enfermagem de Atenção Primária” OR “Nursing Assessment” OR “Office Nursing” OR “Public Health Nursing” OR “Primary Care Nursing” OR “Consulta de Enfermagem” OR “Enfermagem no Consultório”) AND (“Atenção Primária à Saúde” OR “Atenção Básica” OR “Primary Health Care” OR “Atenção Básica à Saúde” OR “Atenção primária de saúde” OR “Atenção primária em saúde”))	19
SCIELO	“teste de hiv” AND “atenção primaria”	28

**Source:** Prepared by the authors, 2025.

**Selection of Evidence Sources**

The search results will be exported to Zotero software, where duplicates will be removed. After the exclusion of duplicates, the studies will be exported to Rayyan (Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar), a web application that will facilitate selection, allowing reviewers to categorize and annotate studies during the screening process.

The selection of evidence followed these steps to conduct the search and selection of publications: 1- reading of titles and abstracts; 2- full analysis of the materials.

The first stage of selection will be carried out by two independent reviewers, who will read the titles and abstracts of the identified publications to determine if each study meets the inclusion criteria.

In case of disagreements between the reviewers during the first stage of selection, such disagreements will be referred to a third independent reviewer with expertise in the subject matter for the final opinion. Studies that

pass the first stage will be fully analyzed by the same reviewers. Each reviewer will read the articles in full to confirm eligibility based on previously established criteria. Therefore, studies that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be indicated in the final report. To ensure the quality and transparency of the study, the results will be presented in a flowchart of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses for Scoping Review (PRISMA-ScR).

**Data Extraction**

For the extraction of the selected data, a database will be created to archive the results as well as the details of the productions found. In turn, for the presentation of the results, the materials will be organized into three tables: the first concerning the main characteristics of the articles; the second detailing the performance of the nursing consultation in HIV testing in the descriptions of the scientific productions; and the last analyzing the level of evidence (Chart 5).

**Chart 5** – Data collection instrument for the scoping review. Rio das Ostras, RJ, Brazil, 2025.

Identification of Studies	Nursing consultation in HIV testing in primary health care.	Analysis of the level of evidence
Authors; title, year of publication; research design; study objectives.	Detailed description of nursing consultations in HIV testing within primary health care, as outlined in scientific publications.	Main procedures used in assisting users seeking nursing consultation for HIV testing in primary health care and the main conclusions.

**Source:** Prepared by the authors, 2025.



The methodology proposed by the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) will be used, and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist will be adopted for the presentation of results.

### Data Analysis and Presentation

Following the data extraction stage, the study will map the main findings related to the topic, as recommended in scoping reviews. The results will be organized and presented using charts, tables, and figures to synthesize the identified evidence and ensure its articulation with the research objectives.

This study aims to achieve the initially proposed objective, which is to create a scientific map of nursing consultations for HIV testing in Primary Health Care. It is worth noting that this protocol is the first step in ensuring greater technical and scientific security for primary health care nurses in performing the diagnosis, in line with the global goals established by UNAIDS.

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## Authors' Contributions

Bianca Albuquerque Cortes Monteiro. 1. Contributes substantially to the conception and/or planning of the study; 2. to the acquisition, analysis, and/or interpretation of the data; 3. as well as to the writing and/or critical review and final approval of the published version.

Hevelyn dos Santos da Rocha. 2. Contributes substantially to the acquisition, analysis, and/or interpretation of the data; 3. as well as to the writing and/or critical review and final approval of the published version.

Fernanda Maria Vieira Pereira Ávila. 1. Contributes substantially to the conception and/or planning of the study; 2. Contributes substantially to the acquisition, analysis, and/or

interpretation of the data; 3. as well as to the writing and/or critical review and final approval of the published version.

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## Data Availability Statement

No databases were generated in this study. The information presented is described in the body of the article.

## Declaration of conflict of interest:

Nothing to declare.

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