

# QUICK REFERENCE CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING HIV RISK



## NO RISK

To our knowledge, none of the practices in this category has ever been demonstrated to lead to HIV infection. There is no potential for transmission since all of the basic conditions for viral transmission are not present.

Potential for transmission: None  
Evidence of transmission: None

Examples: Kissing (no blood); non-insertive masturbation; receiving unshared sex toys; contact with feces or urine (no unbroken skin); injecting with unshared needles; using drugs with new pipe or straw; tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture with sterilized and new equipment; manicures or pedicures.



## NEGLIGIBLE RISK

All of the practices listed in this category present a potential for HIV transmission because they involve an exchange of body fluids, such as vaginal fluid, semen, blood or breast milk. However, the amounts, conditions and media of exchange are such that the efficiency of HIV transmission appears to be greatly diminished. There are no confirmed reports of infection from these activities.

Potential for transmission: Yes  
Evidence of transmission: None

Examples: Getting fellatio or cunnilingus; giving fellatio or cunnilingus with barrier; anilingus; fingering; fisting; using shared sex toys with a condom; sadomasochistic activities (with universal precautions); contact with feces or urine (unbroken skin); vulva-to-vulva rubbing; docking; taking breast milk into the mouth; using drugs with shared pipe or straw; tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture with shared equipment; fighting; sharing toothbrushes and razors.



## LOW RISK

All of the practices listed in this category present a potential for HIV transmission because they involve an exchange of body fluids, such as semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk. There are also reports of infection attributed to these activities (usually through individual case studies or anecdotal reports, and usually under certain identifiable conditions).

Potential for transmission: Yes  
Evidence of transmission: Yes (under certain conditions)

Examples: Kissing (with exchange of blood); giving fellatio or cunnilingus without barrier; intercourse (penile-anal or penile-vaginal) with barrier; injecting with cleaned needles; tattooing with non-professional equipment; vampirism; occupational exposure.



## HIGH RISK

All of the practices listed in this category present a potential for HIV transmission because they involve an exchange of body fluids, such as semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk. In addition, a significant number of scientific studies have repeatedly associated the activities with HIV infection. Even when the exact mechanism of transmission is not completely clear, the results of such studies conclude that activities in this category are high risk.

Potential for transmission: Yes  
Evidence of transmission: Yes

Examples: Penile-anal or penile-vaginal intercourse without condom; sharing sex toys; injecting with shared needles.

		EVIDENCE		
		NO	YES (under certain circumstances)	YES
POTENTIAL	NO	No Risk	<del></del>	<del></del>
	YES	Negligible Risk	Low Risk	High Risk

**HIV** No Risk: Kissing (no blood); non-insertive masturbation; receiving unshared sex toys; contact with feces or urine (no unbroken skin); injecting with unshared needles; using drugs with new pipe or straw; tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture with sterilized and new equipment; manicures or pedicures.

# Model

**HIV** Low Risk: Kissing (with exchange of blood); giving fellatio or cunnilingus without barrier; intercourse (penile-anal or penile-vaginal) with barrier; injecting with cleaned needles; tattooing with non-professional equipment; vampirism; occupational exposure.

**HIV** High Risk: Penile-anal or penile-vaginal intercourse without condom; sharing sex toys; injecting with shared needles.

**HIV** Negligible Risk: Getting fellatio or cunnilingus; giving fellatio or cunnilingus with barrier; anilingus; fingering; fisting; using shared sex toys with a condom; sadomasochistic activities (with universal precautions); contact with feces or urine (unbroken skin); vulva-to-vulva rubbing; docking; taking breast milk into the mouth; using drugs with shared pipe or straw; tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture with shared equipment; fighting; sharing toothbrushes and razors.