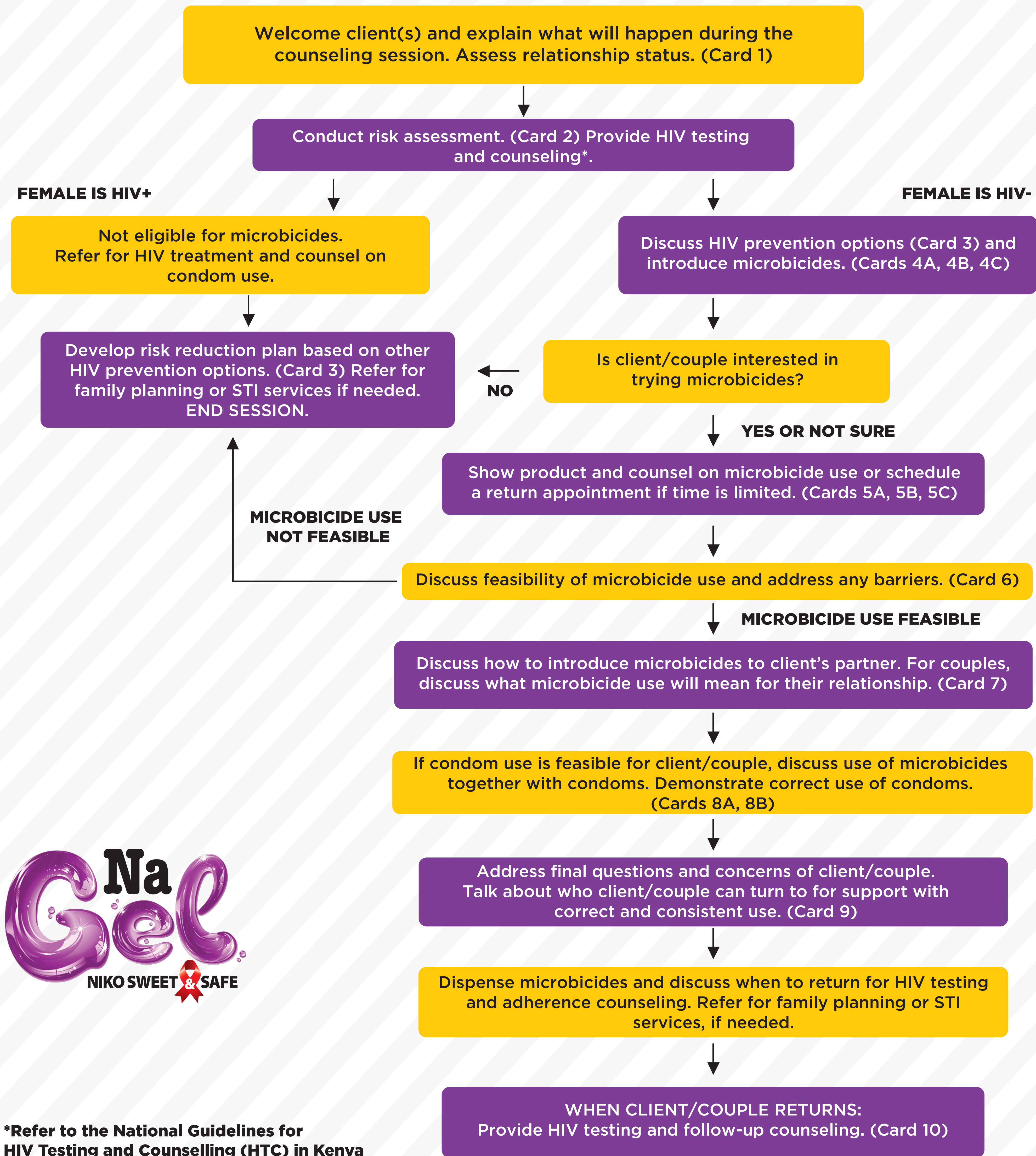




Algorithm for Counseling Potential Microbicide Users in HTC Clinics

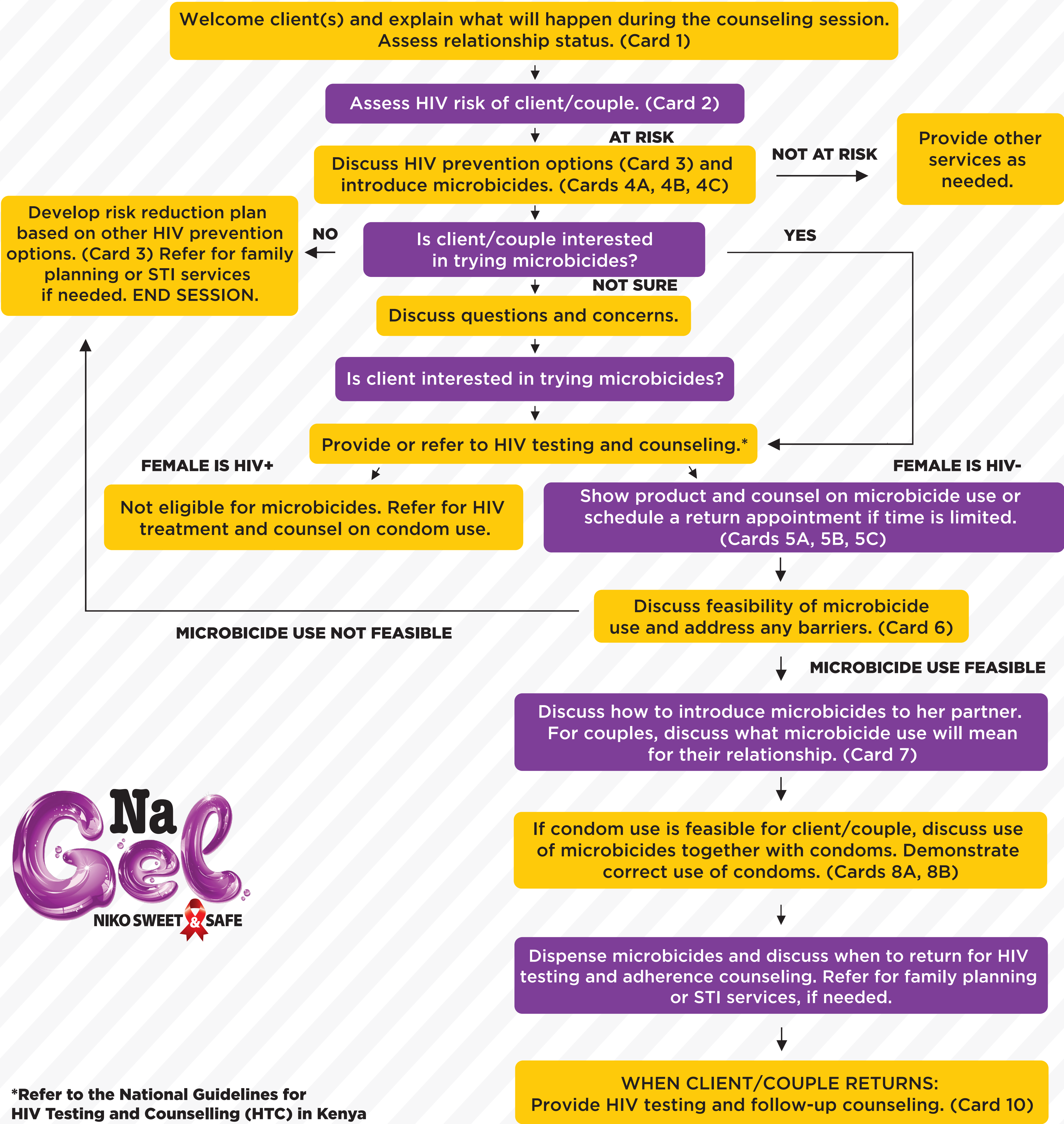
Microbicides are a new tool for HIV prevention. Unlike male condoms, they are products for women. Microbicides are gels, films or creams that contain anti-retroviral (ARV) substances. They are inserted into the vagina to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV and herpes during sex. Any sexually active woman is potentially at risk of HIV infection and may benefit from microbicides. Microbicides only provide partial protection against HIV, however, they do not prevent pregnancy. For this reason, use of microbicides together with condoms is strongly recommended for best protection. Microbicides may be used alone, if condom use cannot be negotiated or if the woman is trying to become pregnant with a HIV positive partner or a partner of unknown HIV status. Microbicides are only for use by HIV-negative women. They cannot be used to treat HIV. Use the following algorithm with all female HTC clients, including adolescents. This algorithm may also be used with couples, including sero-discordant couples. While the algorithm focuses on women and couples, microbicide information can also be added to the package of information given to HIV-positive men. This algorithm is intended for use with the microbicide gel counseling flipchart for healthcare providers. Each step of the algorithm contains card numbers, which refer to cards in the flipchart.



*Refer to the National Guidelines for HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) in Kenya

Algorithm for Counseling Potential Microbicide Users in Family Planning, Primary Care, STI or Youth Friendly Clinics

Women and adolescents seeking family planning, sexually transmitted infection (STI) or primary care services may also be at risk of HIV infection. Microbicides are a new tool for HIV prevention. Unlike male condoms, they are products for women. Microbicides are gels, films or creams that contain anti-retroviral (ARV) substances. They are inserted into the vagina to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV and herpes during sex. Any sexually active woman is potentially at risk of HIV infection and may benefit from microbicides. Microbicides only provide partial protection against HIV, however, they do not prevent pregnancy. For this reason, use of microbicides together with condoms is strongly recommended in order to achieve the best protection. Microbicides may be used alone, if condom use cannot be negotiated or if the woman is trying to become pregnant. Microbicides are only for use by HIV-negative women. They cannot be used to treat HIV. Use the following algorithm with all female clients who may be sexually active, including adolescents. This algorithm may also be used with couples, including sero-discordant couples. While the algorithm focuses on women and couples, microbicide information can also be added to the package of information given to HIV-positive men. This algorithm is intended for use with the microbicide gel counseling flipchart for healthcare providers. Each step of the algorithm contains card numbers, which refer to cards in the flipchart.



*Refer to the National Guidelines for HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) in Kenya