*HIV (the Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that affects the immune system and causes AIDS.*

*HIV is now a manageable infection with medication. Successful treatment depends on identifying the infection at an early stage.*

*There are some conditions which occur more frequently or earlier in people infected with HIV. These conditions can sometimes improve, just by treating the HIV infection.*

*However it is not known how common HIV is in these different conditions.*

*We are now routinely offering HIV tests to all individuals with these conditions and encouraging them to test for HIV infection [according to national guidelines].*

*Peripheral neuropathy can have a number of causes and the sooner the cause is identified and treated the less damage will be done to the peripheral nervous system. Peripheral neuropathy is sometimes seen in patients with HIV however, the vast majority of people with peripheral neuropathy will not have HIV.*

*A routine HIV test of all patients will help us to identify the patients with HIV and provide the necessary treatment and care*

*[Please insert local contact details for the department]*

**During your stay at the Neurology department, you will be asked to do an HIV test. *[Site procedures: 1. a blood sample will be drawn together with the other routine blood samples related to your cancer treatment – no extra tests are needed.* 2. *A rapid test for HIV will be done, by taking a drop of blood from the tip of your finger. The result will be available shortly after.*]. You are welcome to ask any questions you may have [*and you will also need to give written consent to have the HIV test done*.] If you choose not to have the test done it will not affect the care you receive during your stay at the Neurology department.**

Receiving your test result at the hospital:

Taking an HIV test is confidential and the result will only be known by you and the doctor treating you. Everyone accepting an HIV test will receive the result. In case of a positive HIV test, you will be referred to [*the department of infectious diseases or other relevant department for treating HIV*] for the standard treatment and care for the HIV infection. For the treatment of peripheral neuropathy you will stay at the Neurology department.

Receiving your test result from a clinic:

*[Below is given an example of how to deliver the result to the patient. Insert your local procedures]*If your test result is positive, you will receive a phone call within *7 days*, you will be referred to [*the department of infectious diseases or other relevant department for treating HIV*] for the standard treatment and care for the HIV infection. If you do ***NOT*** receive a phone call within *7 days*, your test is ***negative*.**

If you wish to have the negative test result confirmed, please call: *123 456 789 – this is an answering machine.* Leave your name and phone number and a member of the clinic staff will return your call. Please make sure you leave the correct contact details.

Thank you for taking your time to read this leaflet.

Please keep this leaflet for your reference.

Date tested: \_ \_ /\_ \_ /2 0 \_ \_

Date of result: \_ \_ /\_ \_ /2 0 \_ \_