Position 1 (current counselling practice): Respecting patients’ autonomy is the benchmark of counselling.

Position 2 (current counselling practice): While safeguarding patients’ autonomy, patients should be encouraged to disclose their status to their partners for family benefits.

Position 3 (counsellors’ wishes): Protecting patients’ sexual partners at risk is essential but counsellors should be legally protected.

Position 4 (counsellors’ wishes): HIV should be regarded as a chronic disease; testing and disclosure should be made routine.