

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	HIV-1 RNA
Other Name (s)	HIV-1 NAT or HIV-1 RNA QuantDX
Analyte(s)	HIV-1
Test Code	0560 (viral load – quantitative) Plasma only 0530 (diagnostic – qualitative) Plasma or Serum
Lab location	Jacksonville and Miami locations
Department	Retrovirology (HIV)
Prior Authorization	none
Required Forms	none
Specimen Sources	Plasma sample.
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	Centrifuge PPT within 8 hours of collection and freeze until shipment.
Minimum Volume	At least 2.5 ml plasma
Storage/Transport Conditions	Centrifuge PPT within 8 hours of collection and freeze until shipment. Send plasma(s) on approximately 2 - 3 kg of dry ice, however if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3 - 4 foam refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler. Please label cooler on the outside with "VLoad". Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. Shipment must be sent priority overnight.
Collection Media	Plasma sample collected via PPT (pearl top) preferred
Specimen Labeling	Patient name, DOB, Collection date and time
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Send plasma overnight on dry ice at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$, however if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3 - 4 foam refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler $2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$. Please label cooler on the outside with "VLoad". Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. Shipment must be sent priority overnight .
Test Methodology	Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA)
Turnaround Time	1 - 3 days
Result Indicator	Laboratory interpretations: RNA Detected, or RNA Not Detected (serum or plasma), RNA copies/ml blood (plasma only) or Invalid
Unsatisfactory Specimen	1) Quantity not sufficient (QNS) 2) No ID on specimen 3) Mismatch hx/specimen 4) Grossly hemolyzed 5) Leaked in transit 6) Laboratory Accident 7) No specimen received
Interferences and Limitations	Hemolysis
Additional Information & Notes	See quick reference guide
Reference Range	HIV-1 RNA Not Detected
Reference Lab	none
Reflex testing	none

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, M.D., Ph.D.
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Quick Reference Guide To HIV-1 RNA Viral Load Testing

The Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories offers HIV-1 RNA viral load testing using the Hologic Aptima HIV-1 RNA Quant Dx assay. Below is a guide for this service.

- No preliminary restrictions such as fasting are required for a satisfactory plasma specimen.
- Collect 5 ml blood in a sterile Plasma Preparation Tube (PPT), “pearl top”, BD reference #362788. The assay requires a minimum of 2.5 ml plasma. **Do not refrigerate whole blood.** Alternatively, one may collect 7 ml blood in EDTA (K3, 0.15% soln.), “purple top”.
- Centrifuge (10-15 minutes at 1000 x g) the PPT or purple top **within 8 hours of collection.** PPT is now ready to freeze until shipment is prepared (decanting plasma is not required). Purple tops will require decanting of plasma from cells, into a **sterile screw-top plastic tube.**
- Immediately place PPT or plasma in -20°C freezer. Send plasma(s) on approx. 2-3 kg dry ice at ≤-20°C (if available), do not allow dry ice to contact specimens. However, if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3-4 frozen refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler at 2-8°C. Please label the cooler on the outside with “**Viral Load or VLoad**”. Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. PPT and plasma specimens are acceptable upon receipt at laboratory if frozen or maintained at 2-8°C for <6 days.
- Follow appropriate packaging and transporting guidelines. Do not transport dry ice in an airtight container.
- Ship plasma(s) **priority overnight** to the public health laboratory **Monday thru Friday only.** If the work week includes a holiday, please call the laboratory for collection and shipping instructions.
- HIV-1 viral load test services may be electronically ordered through HMS, order #0560

Should you need additional information or clarification please contact Ms. Imelda Ignacio-Hernando at (904) 791-1531, or Mr. Berry Bennett at (904) 791-1527.

BB/IIH
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