

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Molecular Microbiology

HIV-1 viral load

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): CE marked leak proof container

Specimen Type: EDTA Blood

Collection: Freshly drawn whole blood in EDTA

Specimen transport: Ambient or refrigerated

Minimum volume of sample: 3.0 mL

Special precautions: If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

Laboratory information

Measurement units: Copies/mL

Dynamic range: The dynamic range for this assay is 40-10⁷ copies/mL

Biological reference units: Not applicable

Turnaround time for provisional result (working days): 4 days

Turnaround time to final result (working days): 5 days

Clinical information

Clinical decision points: Not applicable

Factors known to significantly affect the results: False negative results may occur for a variety of reasons, for example inappropriate timing of sample collection, inappropriate sample, presence of virus below the detectable limit of the assay. New and emerging variants may also occur which may not be detected by this assay. Towards the limit of detection of an assay sampling variation will result in lower reproducibility.

(Last reviewed March 2019)