

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

Molecular Microbiology

# Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 PCR

## General information

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

**Specimen type:** EDTA blood, CSF, Lesion Swab, Eye Swab, Viterous Tap

**Collection:** Samples for PCR testing should be collected according to local protocols. Ideally, a separate sample for PCR processing should be obtained.

**Specimen transport:** Ambient or refrigerated

**Minimum volume of sample:** Minimum volume 500µl

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

## Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Threshold Cycle (CT)

**Biological reference units:** Not applicable

**Turnaround time for provisional result (working days):** 2 days

**Turnaround time to final result (working days):** 3 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 updated December 2014)**