

## 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:** Whole bloods/EDTA samples should be processed in the laboratory within 24hrs @ 2-25C. Please send to the laboratory as soon as possible.

**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 40-1x10<sup>7</sup> 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.

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