

HIV-1 RNA Viral Load	
Test description	Assay for the quantitation of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) RNA in human plasma from HIV-1 infected individuals
Test use	For use in conjunction with clinical presentation and other laboratory markers for disease prognosis and for use as an aid in monitoring the effects of antiretroviral treatment, as measured by changes in plasma HIV-1 RNA levels
Test department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Aptima HIV-1 Quant assay quantitates HIV-1 RNA groups M, N, and O over the range of 30 to 10,000,000 copies/mL
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday
Specimen requirements	1.5 mL plasma collected in tubes containing EDTA or Acid Citrate Dextrose (ACD) anticoagulants, or in Plasma Preparation Tubes (PPTs)
Collection kit/container	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information
Collection instructions	Standard venipuncture
Specimen handling & transport	Whole blood can be stored at 2°C to 30°C and must be centrifuged within 24 hours of collection. Centrifuged specimen can be stored in the primary collection tube at 2°C to 8°C for up to 3 days. Plasma transferred to a secondary Aptima Specimen Aliquot Tube (SAT) can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for up to 5 days, or <= -20°C for up to 90 days. Transport to the laboratory with an ice pack coolant. Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable conditions	Unlabeled specimens Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above
Requisition form	Clinical Test Requisition (select or write in: HIV-1 RNA Viral Load)
Required information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on requisition matches that on the specimen
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aptima HIV-1 Quant assay is only intended for quantitation of HIV-1 viral load and is not intended for initial clinical diagnosis of HIV-1 infection • This assay is not intended to be used as a donor screening test for HIV-1 or as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HIV-1 infection • Though rare, mutations within the highly conserved regions of the viral genome covered by the primers and/or probes in the Aptima HIV-1 Quant assay may result in under-quantification of or failure to detect the virus
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative measurements of HIV in the peripheral blood have shown that higher virus levels may be correlated with increased risk of clinical progression of HIV-associated disease • Within 3 to 6 weeks of exposure to HIV, infected individuals generally develop a brief, acute syndrome characterized by flu-like symptoms, and is associated with high levels of viremia in the peripheral blood

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