

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SPECIMEN CRITERIA AND TESTING INFORMATION
12-12-17

HIV						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Turn Around Time
HIV-1 & -2 Antibody/p24 Antigen Combo Screen CPT 86806	Whole blood (red-top), Serum, or Plasma	Whole blood (red-top) 6 – 8 ml Min. 2 ml Serum or Plasma	Keep cold or at RT	EIA for detection of antibody to HIV-1, HIV-2, and p24 antigen All positive tests are repeated and tested by supplemental method before results are reported	Category B Exempt specimen Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ² if transported by Med Courier	1 – 4 days
HIV-1 & -2 Geenius Supplemental Test CPT 86701, 86702	Whole blood (red-top), Serum, or Plasma	Whole blood (red-top) 6 – 8 ml Min. 2 ml Serum or Plasma	Keep cold or at RT	Done on repeatedly positive EIA to distinguish HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection	Category B Exempt specimen Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ² if transported by Med Courier	1 – 3 days
HIV-1 Qualitative NAAT CPT 87535	Whole blood (red-top), Serum, or Plasma	Whole blood (red-top) 6 – 8 ml Min. 2 ml Serum or Plasma	Keep cold or at RT	Done on EIA positive/supplemental test negative samples to rule out recent HIV infections	Category B Exempt specimen Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ² if transported by Med Courier	1 – 4 days
HIV Viral Load; Quantitative CPT 87536	Plasma from whole blood with EDTA anticoagulant (purple top) or PPT (purple/yellow top)	Min. 3 ml	Whole blood: RT if less than 24 hours Plasma: cold back or frozen at -20° C	Plasma must be separated from whole blood within 24 hours of collection. PPT may be used but must be centrifuged within 2 hours. Centrifuge at 2000 RPM for 20 minutes and store at 2 – 8° C	Category B Exempt specimen Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ² if transported by Med Courier	1 – 4 days

HIV (CONT)						
Exam (Order Code)	Specimen	Volume	Hold Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Turn Around Time
CD4/CD8 with Ratio CPT 86360	Whole blood with EDTA anticoagulant (purple top) or CytoChex BCT with EDTA anticoagulant (purple tiger top)	Min. 2 ml	RT	Blood collected in regular EDTA tubes must be tested within 48 hours Blood collected in CytoChex BCT tubes must be tested within 14 days	Category B Exempt specimen Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ² if transported by Med Courier	5 days

- (1) Dedicated medical courier exemption: When shipped by a dedicated medical courier, patient specimens which are not classified as Category A (e.g. blood for Ebola testing) are not regulated under DOT's Hazardous Materials Regulations. They may be packaged without using specialized packaging system. Place leak proof primary container in a leak proof secondary container with biohazard label (standard zip lock bag with biohazard label and outer sleeve for specimen requisition will suffice). Place the primary and secondary container in a paper bag labeled with our laboratory address and the consignee's address. CULTURES OR CATEGORY A PATIENT SPECIMENS ARE REGULATED AND MUST BE PACKAGED ACCORDINGLY.
- (2) MOT exemption: Clinical specimens (other than Category A) may be transported by in a personal vehicle to directly support a business which is not transportation; health care providers, patients, or laboratories would qualify for transporting clinical specimens as a material of trade exempt from DOT regulations. MOT does not apply to drivers employed in business of transportation (e.g. cab driver, bus driver or contract courier). Primary container must contain less than 0.5 L. Multiple primary containers (<4L total) may be transported in leak proof outer container containing sufficient absorbent material to absorb entire contents of inner packaging. CULTURES CANNOT and CATEGORY A SPECIMENS (E.G. Ebola blood) cannot be transported as material of trade; they must be categorized (e.g. Category A or B) and packaged/labeled accordingly (e.g. PI 602 and 650 respectively).

Quality Assurance

Adherence to the specimen selection, quantity, storage and transportation criteria stated above are critical to ensuring the accuracy and usefulness of diagnostic testing results. **Test requests with information that is missing, incorrect or different from information on specimen and/or specimens submitted to the laboratory that do not meet above specified criteria could result in delayed testing and specimen rejection.** The laboratory will notify submitters upon receipt of specimens that do not meet specified testing criteria. Please contact the laboratory for concerns regarding any quality assurance issues including specimen quality and testing turnaround times.

Abbreviations

CPT Current Procedural Terminology

EIA Enzyme immune-assay

Hrs Hours

Min. Minimum

ml milliliter

MOT Material of Trade

NA Not applicable

RT Room temperature

References

Koneman, E. W. 2005. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA.

Versalovic, J., K. C. Carroll, G. Funke, J. H. Jorgensen, M. L. Landry, and D. W. Warnock (ed.). 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.