

## Overview

### Useful For

Diagnosing HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 infection in cadaveric or hemolyzed serum specimens from symptomatic patients with or without risk factors for HIV infection

This test is **not offered** as a screening or confirmatory test for blood donor specimens.

### Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
HIVDI	HIV Ab Confirm / Differentiation, S	No	No
HIS12	HIV-1/HIV-2 RNA Detect, S	Yes	No

### Testing Algorithm

This test begins with HIV-1/-2 antibody enzyme immunoassay (EIA). If HIV-1/-2 antibody EIA is reactive, then HIV antibody confirmation/differentiation by immunochromatographic method is performed at an additional charge.

### Highlights

Indicated for testing **symptomatic** individuals (diagnostic purposes) with or without risk factors for HIV infection.

### Method Name

Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)-Screening Procedure

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Serum

### Ordering Guidance

1. This test is **not intended for** testing **asymptomatic** individuals (ie, screening purposes). For testing hemolyzed specimens from such patients with or without risk factors for HIV infection, order HV1CM / HIV-1 and HIV-2 Antibody Screen for Hemolyzed Specimens, Serum.
2. **New York State clients:** This test **should not be requested** for maternal/newborn HIV screening on specimens originating in New York State, due to state regulatory requirements for expedited result reporting.

**Additional Testing Requirements**

If the initial enzyme immunoassay result is negative and this test was ordered as a follow-up evaluation of a specimen with a reactive rapid HIV antibody test result, clients must call 800-533-1710 or 507-266-5700 to request supplemental testing HIV antibody confirmation/differentiation by immunochromatography (HIVDI). The HIVDI / HIV-1 and HIV-2 Antibody Confirmation and Differentiation, Serum test is not US Food and Drug Administration approved for testing cadaveric specimens. If performed, test results will be reported with a disclaimer.

**Necessary Information**

Date of collection is required.

**Specimen Required**

**Supplies:** Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)

**Collection Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** Serum gel

**Acceptable:** Red top

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 1.5 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Centrifuge blood collection tube per collection tube manufacturer's instructions (eg, centrifuge within 2 hours of collection for BD Vacutainer tubes).
2. Aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

**Forms**

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send [Infectious Disease Serology Test Request \(T916\)](#) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

0.2 mL

**Reject Due To**

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	Reject
Gross icterus	Reject

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Frozen (preferred)	30 days	
	Ambient	7 days	
	Refrigerated	7 days	

**Clinical & Interpretive**

**Clinical Information**

Epidemiological data indicate that AIDS is caused by at least 2 types of HIV. The first virus, HIV-1, has been isolated from patients with AIDS or AIDS-related complex and from asymptomatic infected individuals at high risk for AIDS. HIV-1 is transmitted by sexual contact, exposure to infected blood or blood products, or from an infected mother to her fetus or infant. A second HIV virus, HIV-2, was isolated from patients in West Africa in 1986. HIV-2 appears to be endemic only in West Africa, but it has also been identified in individuals who have lived in West Africa or had sexual relations with individuals from that geographic region. HIV-2 is similar to HIV-1 in its morphology, overall genomic structure, and its ability to cause AIDS.

Antibodies against HIV-1 and HIV-2 are usually not detected until 6 to 12 weeks following exposure and are almost always detected by 12 months. Antibodies may fall into undetectable levels in the terminal stage of AIDS.

For more information see [HIV Testing Algorithm \(Fourth-Generation Screening Assay\), Including Follow-up of Reactive Rapid Serologic Test Results](#).

**Reference Values**

Negative

**Interpretation**

A reactive HIV-1/-2 antibody screen result obtained by enzyme immunoassay (EIA) suggests the presence of HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 infection. However, it does not differentiate between HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibody reactivity. Diagnosis of HIV infection must be based on results of supplemental tests, such as HIV antibody confirmation/differentiation test (automatically reflexed on all samples with reactive screen test results at an additional charge).

All presumptive antibody-positive test results should be verified by submitting a second serum specimen for retesting.

A negative HIV-1/-2 antibody EIA screen result usually indicates the absence of HIV-1 or HIV-2 infection. However, for specimens reactive by the rapid HIV antibody tests, confirmatory testing is recommended, even if the EIA results are negative.

**Cautions**

The predictive value of a reactive (or positive) test is highly dependent on the prevalence of infection in the population tested, the lower the prevalence of HIV infection, the lower the positive predictive value of the test.

A person who has participated in an HIV vaccine study may develop antibodies to the vaccine and may or may not be infected with HIV. Clinical correlation is indicated with appropriate counseling, medical evaluation, and, possibly, additional testing to decide whether a diagnosis of HIV infection is accurate.

Negative results should be evaluated cautiously if the patient has clinical symptoms and/or a history of high-risk behavior for HIV infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends confirmatory testing on serum specimens that are reactive by the rapid HIV antibody tests, even if the initial EIA results are negative.

Screening and confirmatory tests for HIV-1/-2 antibodies cannot distinguish between active neonatal HIV infection and

passive transfer of maternal HIV antibodies in infants during the postnatal period (up to 2 years of age). Reactive and confirmed positive antibody test results in infants during this period may indicate passive transfer of maternal HIV antibodies. Diagnosis of HIV infection in newborns and infants up to 2 years should be made by virologic tests, such as detection of HIV-1 DNA or RNA (HIVP / HIV-1 DNA and RNA Qualitative Detection by PCR, Plasma) or HIV-1 RNA (HIVQN / HIV-1 RNA Detection and Quantification, Plasma).

A reactive screen and confirmed HIV antibody test result should be reported by the healthcare provider to the State Department of Health in accordance with the legislation in some states.

Assay performance characteristics have not been established for the following specimen characteristics:

- Lipemic
- Icteric
- Containing particulate matter

## Clinical Reference

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Association of Public Health Laboratories: Laboratory testing for the diagnosis of HIV infection. CDC; Updated June 27, 2014. Accessed December 23, 2024. Available at: [stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/23447](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/23447)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Association of Public Health Laboratories: 2018 Quick reference guide: Recommended laboratory HIV testing algorithm for serum or plasma specimens. CDC; Updated January 2018. Accessed December 23, 2024. Available at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/50872>
3. Hariri S, McKenna MT: Epidemiology of human immunodeficiency virus in the United States. *Clin Microbiol Rev.* 2007 Jul;20(3):478-4884
4. Owen SM, Yang C, Spira T, et al: Alternative algorithms for human immunodeficiency virus infection diagnosis using tests that are licensed in the United States. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2008;46(5):1588-1595

## Performance

### Method Description

The Genetic Systems HIV-1/HIV-2 PLUS O enzyme immunoassay is based on the principle of direct antibody sandwich technique. Microwell-strip plates (solid-phase) are coated with purified HIV antigens: gp160 and p24 recombinant proteins derived from HIV-1, gp36 peptide representing the immunodominant region of the HIV-2 transmembrane glycoprotein, and a synthetic polypeptide mimicking an artificial (not encoded by any existing virus) HIV-1 group O-specific epitope.

Serum samples and assay controls are added to the antigen-coated wells of the microwell-strip plate along with specimen diluent. The specimen diluent contains a dye which changes color from purple to blue when combined with a specimen or control. The wells are incubated and then washed. The next step is the addition of a colored conjugate solution (green) which contains the peroxidase-conjugated HIV-1 and HIV-2 antigens. The wells are then incubated. If HIV-1 or HIV-2 antibody is present, it will bind to the antigen coated on the well and to the peroxidase-conjugated antigens in the conjugate solution. The antigen-antibody-antigen complexes remain bound to the well during a subsequent wash step, which will remove any unbound materials. Working chromogen solution is added to the plate

wells and allowed to incubate. A blue or blue-green color develops in proportion to the amount of HIV antibody present in the sample. Color development is stopped by the addition of acid, which changes the blue-green color to yellow. The optical absorbance of specimens and controls is determined spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 450 nm.(Package insert: Genetics Systems HIV-1/HIV-2 PLUS O EIA. Bio-Rad Laboratories; 02/2019)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Tuesday, Friday

**Report Available**

1 to 7 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

14 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

86703

86701

86702

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
HV1CD	HIV-1/-2 Cadaver/Hemolyzed, S	31201-7

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value

83628	HIV-1/-2 Cadaver/Hemolyzed, S	31201-7
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