

## HIV-1 RNA Quantification with Reflex to Genotypic Drug Resistance to Reverse Transcriptase, Protease, and Integrase Inhibitors, Plasma

**Test ID:** HIQDR

**Useful for:**

Quantifying plasma HIV-1 RNA levels (viral load) in individuals (including children) with known HIV-1 infection, followed by identification of HIV-1 genotypic mutations associated with resistance to nucleotide and non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitors protease inhibitors, and integrase strain transfer inhibitors

Guiding initiation or change of combination antiretroviral therapy in individuals, including children, with HIV-1 infection

**Reflex Tests:**

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
HIVDR	HIV-1 Genotypic Drug Resistance, P	Yes	No

**Methods:**

Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

**Reference Values:**

Undetected

**Specimen Requirements:**

**Collection Container/Tube:** Lavender top (EDTA)

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial (T465)

**Specimen Volume:** 3.6 mL

**Collection Instructions:** 1. Centrifuge blood collection tube and aliquot plasma into plastic vial per collection tube manufacturer's instructions (eg, centrifuge and aliquot within 2 hours of collection for BD Vacutainer tubes).

2. Freeze aliquoted plasma for shipment.

**Minimum Volume:** 2 mL

**Specimen Stability Information:**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Plasma EDTA	Frozen (preferred)	55 days
	Refrigerated	5 days

**Cautions:**

The HIV-1 RNA detection and quantification assay is not approved by the FDA as a screening test for HIV-1 infection in donors of blood, human cells, tissues, or tissue products.

A single HIV-1 viral load test result should not be used as the sole criterion in guiding therapeutic decisions and intervention in the clinical care of HIV-1-infected patients. Viral load results should be correlated with patient symptoms, clinical presentation, and CD4 cell count. Due to the inherent variability in the assay, physiologic variation and concurrent illnesses in the infected patients, changes of less than 100-fold (<2 log) in plasma HIV-1 viral load should not be considered significant changes.

Viral load results below 20 copies/mL do not necessarily indicate absence of HIV-1 viral replication. Inhibitory substances may be present in the plasma specimen, leading to negative or falsely low HIV-1 RNA results. Improper specimen collection or storage may lead to negative or falsely lower plasma viral load results

**CPT Code:**

87536

0219U (if appropriate)

**Day(s) Performed:** Monday through Friday      **Report Available:** 1 to 10 days

**Questions**

Contact James Conn, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.