

HIV, HBV AND HCV VIRAL LOAD (VL) SAMPLE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

TESTS AVAILABLE

HIV-1, HBV and HCV viral load using fully automated real-time PCR utilising the **Roche COBAS AmpliPrep** and **COBAS TaqMan**.

SAMPLES

The assay is currently designed for use with **plasma specimens only**. We require 2.5ml of plasma for each test and patient. This allows sufficient plasma for re-test if required. Please do not over-fill the tubes and allow space for expansion on freezing.

A minimum of 4mls of whole blood should be collected in EDTA tubes (purple/lavender top). Prior to separation, blood should be stored between 2-25°C for no longer than 6 hours. Plasma should be separated within 6 hours of collection by centrifugation at 800-1600 x g for 20 minutes at room temperature. Spun plasma should be transferred to polypropylene screw cap tubes (3-4ml capacity).

SAMPLE STORAGE

Plasma samples may be stored for up to 1 day at room temperature, for up to 5 days at +2-8°C, or may be frozen at -20°C to -80°C indefinitely. We recommend that samples are frozen after collection and sent to us on dry ice. Samples should only be shipped at ambient temperature if they are received at our laboratory within 24 hours of separation.

TEST REQUEST FORM

Please complete the sample request form and ensure that the samples are anonymised and that the full name of the patient does not appear on the form or on the sample tube(s). Do not staple the form to sample bags as it presents a sharps hazard in the laboratory. The form is available from Lab21 Customer Services.

TRANSPORT

We are a member of the DX network, and samples sent using DX should be sent Monday-Thursday. Samples may also be sent using First Class post as long as all the requirements for the packaging of diagnostic specimens and, where relevant, dry ice are met. If you use First Class Post, please send samples early in the week (Monday-Wednesday) so that packages will not remain in transit or storage over the weekend. Packaging can be returned to you by prior arrangement.

RESULTS

Samples will be analysed as soon as possible and within 5 days of receipt. Results will be emailed as PDF files to the recipients nominated on the Account Set-Up Form.

DELIVERY ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

1st Class post

Lab21 Ltd
184 Cambridge Science Park
Cambridge, CB4 0GA

DX

Lab21
DX 6055300
Cambridge 94 CB

Customer Services

T 01223 395 450
F 01223 395 451
E info@lab21.com
W www.lab21.com