



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Molecular Testing

Test Name: HIV RNA Quantitation by PCR

Test Includes: COBAS Amplicor HIV-1 v. 1.5	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: 7 days from receipt	Contact Number: (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)	
Turnaround Time: 7 days	Reference Range: <50 copies/ml
Limitations: The test is not intended to be used as a screening test for blood or blood products for HIV or as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HIV infection. HIV-1 RNA can be quantitated over the range of 50-100,000 copies/ml.	
Interpretation: Monitoring the effects of antiretroviral therapy by serial measurement of plasma HIV-1 RNA has only been validated for patients with baseline viral loads $\geq 25,000$ copies/ml.	
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection: Venipuncture	Sample Type: plasma
Volume/Amount Required: 5 ml EDTA or ACD plasma. <i>Heparin not suitable for this test.</i>	Preferred Specimen: EDTA plasma
Collection/Preservation: EDTA (purple top) or ACD (yellow top) collection tubes only.	Storage Instructions: Do not freeze whole blood. Store whole blood at 2-25°C for no longer than 6 hours. <u>Plasma must be separated within 6 hours of collection.</u> Separated plasma may be held at 2-8° C for 5 days or frozen at -70°C or colder indefinitely.
Causes for Rejection: Discrepancy in specimen identification; insufficient quantity of specimen; wrong anti-coagulant; Improper storage.	Sample Container:
Sample Test Kit:	Availability: Performed Monday and Wednesday
Diagnostic Information:	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form: Standard Clinical Test Request form or through computer interface	Specimen Handling: Use Universal Precautions
Transport Temperature: Plasma at 2-8°C (refrigerated) or -20°C (frozen).	Shipping Requirements: Ship on cold packs (2-8°C), or frozen (-20°C) and mailed on dry ice.
<i>Billing</i>	
CPT Code(s): 87536	Fees: \$100.00
Effective Date: July 1, 2008	



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