

Technical Bulletin

Detailed information concerning methodology, specimen requirements, and reference ranges on new and specialized tests.

- **Test Name:** HIV-1 RNA PCR,
HIV-1 Viral Load (PCR)
- **Test Order Number:** 4670
- **CPT code:** 42180
- **Department:** Microbiology (500)
- **Testing Schedule:** 2X Weekly (Mondays and Thursdays)
- **Specimen Requirement:** EDTA Plasma
- **Reference Range:** Target Not Detected
- **Methodology:** RT-PCR
- **Turn Around Time:** 72 hours

Revised Information

ACM Medical Laboratory will offer a new HIV-1 RNA viral load test with an improved lower limit of quantitation. The new lower level of quantitation is 20 copies/ml; previously, quantitative results were reported above 48 copies/ml. The quantitative range will now be reported between 20 copies/ml and $>5 \times 10^6$ copies/ml.

Laboratory Results

Results for the HIV-1 RNA PCR will be reported as follows:

Titer Result:	Reported As:
Target Not Detected	Target Not Detected
Below the Quantitation Range	HIV-1 RNA Detected, less than 20 HIV-1 RNA cp/ml
Within the Quantitation Range	HIV-1 RNA Detected, ___ HIV-1 RNA cp/ml
Above the Quantitation Range	HIV-1 RNA Detected, greater than 5E+06 cp/ml

Clinical Information

HIV-1 RNA viral load testing is intended for use in conjunction with clinical presentation and other laboratory markers of HIV disease progression for the clinical management of HIV-1 infected patients. As such, HIV-1 RNA viral load testing can be used to monitor the effects of antiretroviral therapy and assess disease progression by accurately measuring HIV-1 RNA levels.

Please note that the HIV-1 RNA viral load testing is not intended for use as a screening test for the presence of HIV-1 in blood, nor should it be used as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HIV-1 infection.

Questions? Call (585) 429-2300 (Client Services) or Dr. Suzanne Dale, Director of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics, (585) 429-2360 or Dr. John D'Souza, ACM Medical Director, (585) 429-2246. Visit www.acmlab.com for additional copies of this Technical Bulletin.