

HIV DNA PCR Protocol

Prior to blood collection for DNA PCR, confirm that transport will be available for transporting samples from hospital to the PEPFAR Asokoro Laboratory Training Centre (ALTC) by calling 09-3144946 and asking for Sam Peters or Richard Enzama, or calling either of them direct at 08065346801 (Sam) or 08032106442 (Richard).

- Provide pre-test counseling prior to blood collection (may be done on a previous day)
- Fill out form correctly
- Label tubes accurately – patient name, hospital name, hospital ID number, date of birth, test requested (DNA PCR), date, time of collection
- Prepare for bleeding
 - (Gloves, tourniquet, alcohol (make sure alcohol has evaporated before drawing blood), gauze and/or bandage, 4 mL lavender top EDTA vacutainer tube, vacutainer tubing, 23g butterfly needle)
- Put 2 mL¹ of blood in 4 mL labeled tube (please provide 2 separate tubes of 2 mL of blood in initial phase). Gently roll and invert specimen in tube several times, being careful not to spill any.
- Hand the blood and form to appropriately identified person who will confirm that identifying information is correct. Site clinician to keep top copy of lab form for chart records.
- Transfer blood to storage/transportation box to be kept between 2-25 deg C
- Transfer samples to site lab
- Site lab should keep 2nd page of lab form and to transfer 3rd page to ALTC with the samples.
- Samples to be transferred to ALTC as soon as possible after all have been collected, making sure that no more than 6 hours has passed since the time of first collection.
- Referral laboratory to send results back to clinic promptly using 3rd page of lab form.

¹ If less than 1 mL is collected, sample quantity may be insufficient and may be rejected. Sample may still be sent to ALTC for determination if quantity is insufficient.