

EFFECTIVE WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2011

THE MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

**HIV-1 RNA QUANTITATIVE NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFIED TEST
 (VIRAL LOAD)
 VERSION 2 ASSAY**

The Roche HIV version 2 assay (replacing version 1) provides the following key improvements:

Parameter	Version 1	Version 2
Sensitivity	48 copies/mL	20 copies/mL
Linear Dynamic Range	48 – 10,000,000 copies/mL	20 – 10,000,000 copies/mL
Genetic Coverage	Group M Subtypes A-H	Group M Subtypes A-H, Group O
Target	<i>gag</i> region	<i>gag</i> and LTR region

Please note that due to a high correlation to version 1, re-baselining patients is not necessary with this transition.

Since our new assay will detect lower levels of circulating virus, please note that the United States Department of Health and Human Services has implemented the following changes to the guidelines for interpreting persistent low level viremia¹:

- Persistent low level viremia (e.g., HIV RNA 50 – 200 copies/mL) does not necessarily indicate virologic failure or a reason to change treatment. Clinicians should continue to monitor these patients.
- Patients with isolated increases in HIV RNA (“blips”) do not require a change in treatment and should be monitored with caution.
- For some highly treatment experienced patients, maximal virologic suppression is not possible. In this case, antiretroviral therapy should be continued with regimens designed to minimize toxicity, preserve CD4 cell counts, and avoid clinical progression.

Ordering Information (There is no change in ordering information):

- **Test Name:** HIV 1 RNA Quantitative Nucleic Acid Amplified Test
- **Mnemonic:** HIV NAATQT
- **Test Code:** 6650014
- **CPT Code:** 87536

For questions or additional information, please call:

- Dr. Nathan Ledebor, Director, Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics (414-805-7556)
- Kristina Georgakas, Manager, Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics (414-805-7558)

¹ DHSHIV Guidelines <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/Guidelines>.