

## Lababstract - January 2015

### HIV Viral Load Results - Adjustment in Reporting

#### A change to the reporting of HIV-1-RNA Viral Load results when the target is not detected or is detected below the linear range of the assay

This Lababstract clarifies an adjustment made to the reporting of HIV-1 RNA results using the Abbott RealTime HIV-1 assay, based on a recommendation from the National Laboratory for HIV Reference Services in Winnipeg. There are no changes to the PHO Laboratories test platform, methodology or quantifiable results.

The change came into effect on May 12, 2014 and adds a new reporting category of HIV viral load "Target Not Detected". Samples with HIV-1 RNA target detected, but with a concentration too low to accurately quantify the viral load continue to be reported as "< 40 copies/ mL". Samples with no HIV -1 RNA target detected are now reported as "Target Not Detected" (previously also reported as "< 40 copies/ mL").

Report results for Abbott HIV 1Viral Load (RT PCR) Test	Comments on Public Health Ontario report
Target Not Detected	<p>Interpretation: HIV-1 RNA Not Detected.</p> <p>A specimen with a result of "Target Not Detected" cannot be presumed to be negative for HIV -1 RNA.</p> <p>At present there is no evidence for clinical relevance of "Target Not Detected" versus "&lt;40 copies/mL". No changes in clinical management are recommended based on these results.</p>
< 40 Copies/ mL	<p>Interpretation: HIV-1 RNA detected below the linear range of the assay. Unable to quantify.</p> <p>At present there is no evidence for clinical relevance of "Target Not Detected" versus "&lt; 40 Copies / ml". No changes in clinical management are recommended based on these results.</p>

## HIV Viral Load Results: Adjustment in Reporting (Continued)

### For further information:

- Contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or by email at [CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca](mailto:CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca)
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