

VIRAL LOAD TESTING – UPDATE *Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 and Hepatitis B Virus*

Effective Date: July 11, 2017

On **July 11, 2017**, HIV-1 and hepatitis B (HBV) viral load test results will include an additional result field to indicate whether each virus is “detected” or “not detected”. This reporting modification is required by laboratory accrediting/regulatory agencies. The additional result field is already being used for cytomegalovirus (CMV) and hepatitis C (HCV) viral load testing.

The following table highlights the difference, where applicable, between the lower limit of detection and the lower limit of quantitation for commonly used viral load tests.

Test	Lower Limit of Detection (LOD)	Lower Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)
CMV (CMV) DNA Quantitation by PCR	91 IU/ml	137 IU/ml
HBV DNA Quantitation by PCR	12.5 IU/ml	20 IU/ml
HCV RNA Quantitation by PCR	15 IU/ml	15 IU/ml
HIV Viral Load (HIV 1 RNA Quantitation)	20 copies/ml	20 copies/ml

Lower limit of detection (LOD): is the lowest concentration of virus in a blood sample that can be detected with $\geq 95\%$ accuracy.

Lower limit of quantitation (LOQ): is the lowest concentration of virus in a blood sample that can be accurately measured with acceptable error (usually $\leq 0.3 \log_{10}$).

There will be no change in the specimen collection and handling process.

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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