



## Memorandum – Micro #224

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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**Subject: Changes to HIV RNA (Viral Load) Collection**

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Effective June 19, 2023, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will change the collection tube used for HIV viral load testing (EPIC: “HIV RNA, Quantitative PCR” Test ID: LAB878). Previously, the collection tube was a 6 mL pink-top EDTA tube, which is being replaced by a pearl-top plasma preparation tube (PPT), shown right. Plasma preparation tubes may be ordered in Infor (item # 052415).

Specimens must be received and spun within 6 hours of collection. Centrifugation per the PPT package insert must be followed. Centrifuge BD PPT Tube in a balanced, swing-out rotor type centrifuge at room temperature at 1,100 RCF for a minimum of 10 minutes. Do not aliquot from the PPT after centrifugation. Specimens should not be frozen but transported refrigerated after centrifugation. Specimens received unspun >6 hours after collection will be rejected.



There is no change to the collection for pediatric patients – 3 mL purple top EDTA tubes should be used and spun within 6 hours of collection and aliquoted.

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu).