



Date: February 6, 2015

From: Dr. Robert Coombs, ACTG Network Laboratory Principal Investigator

To: United States/Domestic ACTG Laboratories Only: This Memo Does Not Apply to Non-US/International ACTG Laboratories

Re: Centralized ACTG HIV RNA/Viral Load Testing for United States/Domestic ACTG Laboratories

Effective March 1, 2015 all domestic protocol related HIV-1 RNA testing- except for screening- will go to Quest Diagnostics-Baltimore (LDMS 33) for centralized testing.

As is the current practice, screening HIV-1 RNA results (viral loads) will continue to be the responsibility of the US/domestic ACTG clinical research sites (CRS). Quest Diagnostics- Baltimore will invoice the ACTG Leadership and Operations Center (BWH) directly for the HIV-1 RNA testing and not the individual CRS. No CRS will be reimbursed for any non-screening HIV-1 RNA testing performed locally. HIV-1 RNA results will be transmitted directly from Quest to the applicable CRS via fax and to the ACTG Data Management Center via the LDMS. Appropriate protocol documents [(for example, ACTG protocol Laboratory Processing Charts (LPCs))] are being updated to reflect these changes.

1. If a CRS does not already have an arrangement for ACTG related testing with Quest Diagnostics-Baltimore, then a new account within the Quest Diagnostics- Baltimore system will need to be setup for the CRS. To setup an account, provide the site name, address, phone number, fax number, and a contact person to Quest Diagnostics-Baltimore. Please contact Larry Hirsch to setup an account, obtain a unique account number, and obtain Quest requisition forms: Larry Hirsch | Quest Diagnostics' Special Studies Service Representative | Larry.A.Hirsch@questdiagnostics.com | 410-536-1622

2. Sites will need to use the Quest requisition form as well as the protocol CRFs when submitting samples for ACTG HIV-1 RNA testing. In some instances, sites are already using Quest Diagnostics-Baltimore for HCV RNA testing but will **still** need to request the additional requisition forms for HIV-1 RNA testing.

3. Specimens for HIV-1 RNA and HCV RNA testing may be shipped together in the same shipping container. Specimens can be shipped to Quest using the ACTG FedEx shipping account #600908804.

4. The Quest shipping address and contacts are: Quest Diagnostics Incorporated | Attn: Special Studies - Denise Bopst | 1901 Sulphur Spring Road | Baltimore MD 21227 | TEL: 410-536-1713 | FAX: 410-536-1474

Contacts: Denise Bopst (Denise.I.bopst@questdiagnostics.com) and Kimberly Adams (Kimberly.a.adams@questdiagnostics.com)

Please contact the ACTG Laboratory Science Group if you have any questions or concerns, ACTGLaboratoryCoordination@s-3.com.

Cc: Dan Kuritzkes, MD, ACTG Principal Investigator, and Chair, ACTG Executive Committee
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