



# TECHNICAL NOTICE

## SOUTH BEND MEDICAL FOUNDATION

January 2009

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### Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2 (HIV-2) Antibody

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**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Performing Department:** Immunoassays

**Method:** Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)

**Use:** Detection of circulating antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2 (HIV-2)

**Clinical Significance:**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2 (HIV-2) is closely related to Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1. HIV-1 has been isolated from patients with AIDS and AIDS-related complex (ARC) and was the only virus recognized as a cause of these syndromes until 1986, when a second type of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV Type 2 or HIV-2) was isolated and also reported to cause AIDS. Since the initial discovery, more than 600 cases of HIV-2 infection have been documented worldwide, with more than 40 cases of AIDS related to HIV-2. In the United States, there have been 62 cases of infection with HIV-2 reported.

This second immunodeficiency virus is similar to, but distinct from, HIV-1. The two viruses have very similar morphology and lymphotropism, and the modes of transmission appear to be identical. In addition, the HIV-1 and HIV-2 genomes exhibit about 60% homology in conserved genes such as gag and pol, and 30-40% homology in other, less conserved genes. Serologic studies have also shown that the core proteins HIV-1 and HIV-2 display frequent cross-reactivity whereas the envelope proteins are more type-specific.

**Reference Range:** Non-Reactive

*Note:* An HIV-2 antibody immunoblot test will automatically be ordered on all specimens that are reported as reactive by the screening test.

**Specimen Requirements and Collection:**

Preferred Specimen: • Serum from gold top (SST) or red (serum) tube

Alternate Specimen: • Plasma from lavender top (EDTA) or green top (heparin) tube

Requested Volume: • 1.0 mL

Minimum Volume: • 0.5 mL

Stability: • 1 week refrigerated (2-8°C) • Greater than 1 week, freeze (-20°C)

Storage/Transport: • Refrigerated

Causes For Rejection: • Severely hemolyzed, lipemic or icteric sample

**Testing Schedule:** • Wednesday and Saturday • Samples received by 7:00 am will be reported by 5:00 pm same day

**Order:** • HIV-2 Antibody Screen, by EIA, with Confirmation if Indicated ..... Test #: 28273..... CPT: • 86702  
If indicated, add: • 86689

Please direct questions or comments regarding this notice to William J. Kaliney, M.D., Deborah H. Sun, Ph.D., or Brett Colter of South Bend Medical Foundation, (574) 234-4176 or (800) 544-0925.

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