



CPAL

Central Pennsylvania Alliance Laboratory

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Confirmation of Positive HIV-1/2 Antibody ELISA Screens

In the Central Pennsylvania area, it is believed that the occurrence of infection due to HIV-2 is still very rare. However, the only means of ruling out such an infection in a high risk or symptomatic patient is to specifically look for the antibodies using both an ELISA screen followed by a Western blot assay if the screen result is positive. Currently, client laboratories of CPAL have two options when ordering the diagnostic test for antibodies to HIV:

HIV 1/2 Ab Screen (CPAL #3400010):

1. The ELISA screen for serum antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2. If the result is positive, the serum is sent to AML for the Western blot assay for antibodies to HIV-1 only. If the Western blot result is negative, infection due to HIV-2 is not ruled out.

New Test Group HIV 1/2 Ab Progressive Group (CPAL Test #3400020):

2. The ELISA screen for serum antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2. If the result is positive, reflexive testing will be done to detect and confirm antibodies to either HIV-1 or HIV-2:
 - a. The Western blot assay for antibodies to HIV-1 will be performed at AML.
 - b. If that result is negative, an ELISA test for antibodies to HIV-2 will be performed at AML. This test will add about two days to the reporting time of the results.
 - c. Only if the ELISA assay for HIV-2 antibodies is positive, the Western blot test for HIV-2 antibodies will be performed at AML.

It is recommended that the second testing option be selected to assist in the diagnosis of any high risk or symptomatic patient.

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For questions about this, and other, information, call Central Pennsylvania Laboratory at 1-888-480-1422