



The Review

NBIMC News, Updates, & Announcements
January 2024

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The Kanji message to the left reads, "Happy New Year". This image was created to spread unity and respect for the local Japanese community, and to wish all active duty service members a Happy New Year. Image Source - [VIRIN:231222-M-GU374-1001](#).

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Quarterly Review Visit: NBIMC travels to CDD

Written By: Julia Wolfrey, MHA

On 14 December 2023, Lead Health Science Specialist, Vanessa Santiago-Miranda and Program Analyst, Ai Marrero visited CDD for a quarterly review visit. Mr. Lyons, Mr. Vasquez, and Ms. Broadbent welcomed Mrs. Santiago-Miranda and Mrs. Marrero at their facility and discussed items on the agenda. NBIMC and CDD group members confirmed that MHS Genesis Go Live waves have been successful. However, ongoing issues involving members without assigned duty codes has been recognized as a potential delay for results transmission. NBIMC will distribute a Job Aid to sites for reference and will reach out to the sites when necessary to combat this issue. Additionally, CDD and NBIMC agree to continue to work together to maintain an updated POC listing by contacting sites periodically, encouraging sites to notify CDD and NBIMC with any POC changes. Overall, the trip confirmed that a good working relationship between CDD and NBIMC continues to exist, and NBIMC is looking forward to the next quarterly visit.

Recent Updates

Force Testing: General FAQ's

Click [here](#) to review these commonly asked questions concerning the specimen testing process.

Questions involve topics such as:

- Shipping and Submission Guidelines
- Discarded specimens
- MRRS updates
- Permit information
- HIV readiness
- Missing PII
- HIV evaluation delinquencies

Additional documents are also embedded within the FAQ as references and for your safekeeping.



Image Source - VIRIN: 230726-F-AP057-1328

Provider Testing Job Aid: FAQ's

Frequently asked questions that providers raised regarding the Provider Testing Job Aid - Key Resources are displayed below. Please refer to this document if you have a question concerning provider testing. If you wish to ask a question that has not already been addressed, please send an email to: julia.d.wolfrey.ctr@health.mil and vanessa.santiago-miranda.civ@health.mil.

Questions Regarding Documents B, C, and C.1 (Instruction for SOT G Orders, SOT G Provider Results View, and Algorithm – Technical Exhibit 11)

1) **Q:** *Do these documents show us how to utilize a test called HIV 1/O/2 CDD in Genesis which will give a result for both 4th Gen Ag/Ab test PLUS a HIV NAAT?*

A: Yes, the order is a panel only for PrEP candidates. The panel consists of a HIV 1/2 4th generation antigen/antibody screening AND a HIV NAAT/RNA test. All orders get an HIV NAAT test regardless of the HIV 1/2 antigen/antibody screen result.

2) **Q:** *Is this meant for us to use for PrEP patients? Will this only result with a NAAT if the Ag/Ab test result gives a reactive result?*

A: Yes, only for PrEP candidates; all non-reactive HIV antigen/antibody screen receive a NAAT test. In the case of an initial reactive HIV screening, the next step is the HIV 1 / 2 differentiation test (Genius/BioRad), and then the HIV RNA/NAAT test. If the HIV antigen/antibody test is non-reactive but virus is detected on the HIV RNA/NAAT test, the final interpretation is a positive test. In this case, the ordering provider is alerted immediately, as this is a case of an acute HIV infection. We have observed this occurrence once or twice in a year.

3) **Q:** *Why is the Job Aid missing additional possible results following the algorithm? Is there a reason for this?*

A: The Job Aid is missing two of the possible result options due to the low frequency of PrEP candidate service members receiving a positive screening with a negative differentiation and negative RNA. The other two additional possible results following the algorithm are:

- HIV 1/2 4th gen initial screening: Reactive, HIV 1/2 Differentiation test: Negative, and HIV RNA/NAAT test: Negative.
- HIV 1/2 4th gen initial screening: Reactive, HIV 1/2 Differentiation test: Indeterminate, and HIV RNA/NAAT test: Negative.

Announcements

HIV Testing Algorithm Awareness

The updated Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) recommendations involve implementing different nucleic acid tests (NATs) for diagnostic use. The implementation of these newly approved tests exists in the third step of both the CDC's and NBIMC's HIV testing algorithm. Apart from the update, the CDC and NBIMC algorithms still recommend a reactive antigen/antibody screening immunoassay (HIV-1/O/2 Screen) followed by an HIV-1/HIV-2 antibody differentiation immunoassay. NBIMC follows the CDC's recommendation to perform a NAT when differentiation assay results are negative or indeterminate for HIV-1 or HIV-2 antibodies.

The three HIV NATs approved by the FDA include:

(Click on each test for more information)

1. [Cobas HIV-1/HIV-2 Qualitative test](#)
 - a. Detects HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 RNA
2. [Aptima HIV-1 Quant Dx Assay](#)
 - a. Detects HIV-1 RNA
3. [Alinity m HIV-1 Assay](#)
 - a. Detects HIV-1 RNA

Click [here](#) to view the CDC HIV Algorithm

Click [here](#) to view the NBIMC HIV Algorithm

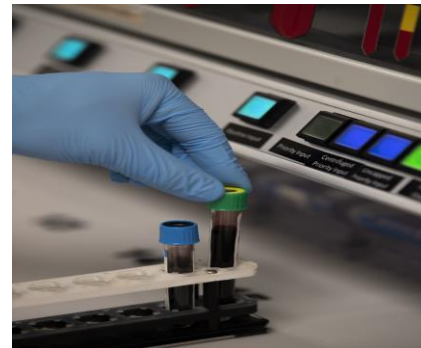


Image Source - VIRIN:190404-F-NP696-2171

POC Site Change Reminders

The Center for Disease Detection (CDD) requests all POC's to inform CDD if/when they will be leaving a site. Additionally, POC's are required to inform CDD of any new POC's and/or any changes to the site's contact list. By continually communicating with CDD, all sites will remain up to date as staff changes occur, allowing for more up to date POC listings. Please email armando.vazquez@cddmedical.com, laura.broadbent@cddmedical.com, Teresa.Sandoval@cddmedical.com, Military@cddmedical.com AND dha.bethesda.Walter-Reed-Med-Ctr.mbx.nbimc@health.mil with any POC site changes.