

## **HIV-1 RNA Viral Load**

Blood should be collected in sterile collection tubes using the BD Plasma Preparation Tubes (PPT) with EDTA as the anticoagulant. ***Specimens collected using heparin as the anticoagulant are unsuitable for this test.***

Collect one PPT tube using standard venipuncture techniques.

### **Test ORDERING, COLLECTION, AND HANDLING**

1. Obtain a sterile PPT tube for blood collection containing EDTA ( white cap with orange dot on top).
2. Place your test request in the hospital CERNER system.
3. Paste the specimen barcode label on the tube.
4. Aseptically collect 5 mL of blood.
5. Transport to the Central Accessioning service of the clinical laboratory on the second floor within 1 to 2 hr.

Turn around Time- 1 to 4 days