

## HIV SEROLOGY EQA – CYCLE 38

### **Introduction:**

Method information is available for all programmes – contact Thistle if you need assistance with method registrations. It is important to read and understand this document. If you have any other queries let us know via phone or email.

### **Characteristics:**

Your pack contains vials of 1.8 ml serum samples. The vials are labelled with the sample number and the date of analysis.

### **Storage and Stability:**

Samples must be stored frozen. We suggest that you keep the sample for re-analysis.

Samples are stable indefinitely if stored frozen at -20° to -84°C.

Samples are only stable for one month if stored at 2 - 8°C.

### **Important Information:**

**Please check your kit upon arrival and call Thistle immediately if there are any problems with your kit.**

Treat the samples as patient samples – do not give them special treatment.

Fax your results sheet to: + 27 (0) 86-538-4484

The reports will be posted / e-mailed within 7-10 working days after the final cut-off date.

Collusion and falsification of EQA results/reports are not good accreditation practice.

### **Preparation:**

Thaw the vial at 37 °C – once the vial has been thawed it is ready for use. Analyse these vials as you would for a patient sample.

### **Safety:**

#### **Warning: Potentially Biohazardous Material**

The serum samples are human based. For your safety, handle the samples as carefully as patient samples. Please dispose of our samples as you do your routine patient samples

**Return of Results:**

Each of the samples has a number printed on the label. We recommend analysis dates as shown below. Please send your results - **at the latest** - on the final cut-off dates given below. If the recommended analysis date does not allow you to get results to us on time, please analyse earlier. Analyse the sample on the date that correlates with the relevant sample number. If in doubt, please contact Thistle immediately for assistance.

**Additional Notes:**

Take note that this programme is a "HIV ONLY" (qualitative and quantitative) programme. Visit our website at [www.thistle.co.za](http://www.thistle.co.za) to get more information on the Digital PT Serology testing.

**Analysis and Final Cut-off Dates for Results:**

<u>Sample No:</u>	<u>Analysis Dates:</u>			<u>Final cut-Off Dates:</u>		
1	20	February	2012	27	February	2012
2	19	March	2012	26	March	2012
3	23	April	2012	30	April	2012
4	21	May	2012	28	May	2012
5	18	June	2012	25	June	2012
6	23	July	2012	30	July	2012