**Module 5: Viral Load Specimen Collection and Preparation**

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| https://d30y9cdsu7xlg0.cloudfront.net/png/1303-200.png **Time: 30 minutes****Session Objectives**By the end of this session, participants will be able to:* Describe the two types of viral load test specimens
* https://d30y9cdsu7xlg0.cloudfront.net/png/16392-200.pngExplain the process of venous blood specimen collection
* Explain the process of dried blood spot specimen collection
* Describe elements of bio-safety

**Session Overview*** + - Viral Load Test Specimens
		- Venous Blood Specimen Collection
		- Dried Blood Spot Specimen Collection
		- Bio-safety

**Materials Needed*** Slides
* Sample laboratory request form
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| 25 minute Lecturehttps://d30y9cdsu7xlg0.cloudfront.net/png/128330-200.png | Trainer will:* Introduce the two types of viral load test specimens.
	+ Facilitate a discussion about the relative merits of plasma and dried blood spot specimens in participants’ own settings.
* Describe the process of venous blood specimen collection.
	+ Materials required for specimen collection
	+ Venous blood specimen collection steps
	+ Processing
	+ Storage
	+ Transport
	+ Triple packaging
	+ Venous blood specimen rejection criteria
* Describe the process of dried blood spot specimen collection.
	+ Materials required for specimen collection
	+ Dried blood spot specimen collection steps and tips
	+ Storage
	+ Transport
	+ Dried blood spot specimen rejection criteria and solutions to DBS specimen collection errors, including:
		- Can’t read identification
		- Not enough blood
		- Layered or clotted blood
		- Serum rings/alcohol contamination
		- Too much blood
		- Poor collection technique
* Discuss key elements of biosafety in the context of specimen management for viral load testing.
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| 5 minute Wrap-up | Trainer will ask if audience has any questions. |

**Methodologies**



* Lecture