**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.png](https://thenounproject.com/term/survey/16392)Explain 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 | |
| 25 minute Lecture  https://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. |
| 5 minute Wrap-up | Trainer will ask if audience has any questions. |

**Methodologies**



* Lecture