Module 5: Viral Load Specimen Collection and Preparation

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
- 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
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
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- 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

1. Lecture

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