Proficiency Testing Assay Instructions for 
anti-Toxoplasma Antibodies (TOXOPT)

CAUTION

The base serum and red blood cells used for preparing blood spot specimens at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been tested and found to be negative for Anti-HIV1,2 and O subtypes, Anti-HCV, HBsAg, Anti-HBc, and Chagas Disease (T.cruzi) by chemiluminescent immunoassay (ChLIA); HIV, HCV, HBV, and WNV by nucleic acid testing (NAT) and RPR (flocculation). Because no test method offers complete assurance that these or other infectious agents are absent, treat all specimens as potentially infectious and follow universal precautions. For more information on bloodborne pathogens, visit http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/

SPECIMEN QUALITY STATEMENT

NSQAP strives to create specimens that mimic newborn dried blood spots. Prepared specimens have been certified and may depart from established visual criteria for assessing specimen quality. These specimens are fit for the purposes of proficiency testing.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

NSQAP participant information and evaluations are strictly confidential and shared only with individual participants, unless written authorization for release is received.

ASSAYING AND REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Inspect all proficiency testing (PT) specimens upon receipt. If a panel is incomplete or contains unlabeled specimens, request a new panel within 48 hours. Send the following information to NSQAPDMT@cdc.gov: laboratory code number, PT Panel Type, Specimen Number(s), and reason for requesting new panel.

2. Refrigerate the enclosed specimens at 4°C upon receipt if storage is necessary.

3. Handle these specimens as routine specimens. Assay them as part of your normal daily workload. Participating laboratories must generate and submit their own results and must not share NSQAP PT test results or specimens with any other laboratory under ANY circumstance, even if the laboratory normally sends specimens to referral laboratories for routine or confirmatory testing. Participants found to have falsified or shared results will be barred from participation in the NSQAP PT program.

4. Punch all dried blood disks for analysis from within the blood spots on the specimen cards.

5. Download the TOXOPT Data Reporting form from our website at: http://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsqap_resources.html

6. Fill out the form with ALL of the requested information.

7. Select the method code from the drop-down menu on the data report form.

8. If your laboratory screens specimens for anti-Toxoplasma IgM and does additional testing to confirm the presence of anti-Toxoplasma Antibodies, report both the screening and confirmatory results on the data report form.

9. Complete each presumptive interpretation based on assay results, and enter the interpretation code derived from your routine reporting scheme into the proper block. Every enclosed specimen represents a full-term (>2500g) baby.

10. Attach the file to an email and send to NSQAPDMT@cdc.gov. Include your laboratory code number in the subject line of your email.

Late data will not be accepted for any reason. If data are not reported once within four events, your laboratory will be inactivated for this analyte program.

To view dates for future shipments, see the NSQAP Shipping Schedule at: http://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/nsqap_resources.html. For questions, send an email to NSQAPDMT@cdc.gov and include your laboratory code in the email subject line.