

# Requirement for Identified and Validated (IVS) Samples



## Purpose:

To provide the definition and process of obtaining an identified and validated sample.

## Definition:

An identified and validated sample is a sample taken after the identity of the patient has been verified using an acceptable form of identification and the following criteria, aimed at limiting fraudulent submission of samples or tampering of samples, stated below are met:

## An IVS Must Meet the Following Criteria:

- a) The individual taking the sample must verify that the HCW is the individual presenting for the testing, by the examination of photographic proof of identity: i.e. Employee's identity badge, new driving licence, passport etc.
- b) The sample is taken in an Occupational Health (OH) service centre, or in relation to HIV infected healthcare workers, in the facility of the treating physician. Samples being tested for HIV should be marked "EPP" to ensure that the sample is tested and not stored.
- c) Samples are delivered to the laboratory in the routine way, not transported by the HCW.
- d) When the sample results are received, they are checked as having been sent from the OH service, or from the treating physician.
- e) Within NHS Lothian, IVS sample laboratory reports are confirmed as being "IVS" and signed by the checking OHS staff member on completion of steps above.
- f) It is NHS Lothian policy that from 1 January 2006 BBV serology and immunology results require to be IVS certified. HBV testing prior to 1 January 2006 which does not meet IVS standards remains acceptable. HCV and HIV testing requires to be IVS standard irrespective of sampling date.

## Acceptance of Results

- NHS Lothian will carry out testing required by this policy unless satisfactory documented evidence is provided.
- Satisfactory documented evidence is a written confirmation of the results from an accredited laboratory, including the laboratory results provided by another OHS, or for non IVS results prior to 1 January 2006 by their General Practitioner or another medical authority.
- Original or photocopied laboratory results alone are not acceptable, without a signature from OHS or their medical authority confirming the identity of the individual tested