

### Item 3.3

#### HIV Testing

#### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ACCREDIT LABORATORIES?**

Due to the nature of insurance testing, it is important for the industry and accredited laboratories to ensure the highest standards with respect to technical aspects, administrative functions and identification of clients. Of course, this not only applies to HIV tests, but to all other forms of insurance testing

Since HIV is still very much a sensitive topic in this country, it is especially important to minimize false positive results, due to the possibility of emotional trauma to the client. Similarly, false negative results may negatively impact on the profitability of the industry.

Therefore the HIV testing protocol is an extremely important joint effort between the industry and designated laboratories in order to ensure the highest possible standards of insurance testing. The accreditation process ensures that the following standards are maintained:

1. accredited laboratories are run by qualified pathologists who take responsibility for all functions of the laboratory.
2. All tests are done strictly in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations and all laboratories follow the same procedures ensuring uniformity.
3. The possibility of human error in the testing process and reporting of results is reduced to a minimum by using automated testing procedures and direct communication with the insurance company.
4. There is a uniform approach to the identification of clients and protocols are strictly followed.
5. Results are reported in a uniform manner by all laboratories.
6. There are appropriate quality control measures in place

The entire process is designed to be socially responsible for both the insurance industry as well as the pathologists' and laboratories involved. Finally, in a climate where insurance testing is continually under the spotlight, the accreditation process has come a long way to ensure that consistency and the highest standards are maintained, to ensure the continued success of the industry whilst maintaining the interest of the client.