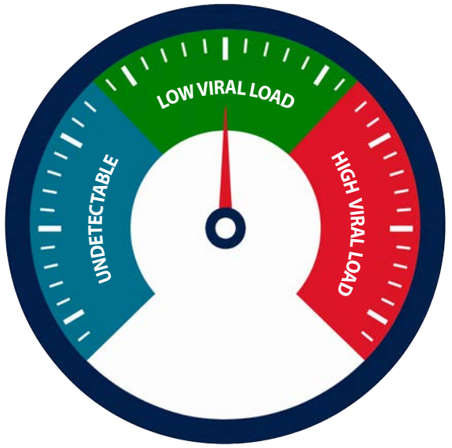
HIV and Laboratory Tests: What are Some Important Tests?

Drug Resistance Test

- **What:** Determines what kinds of HIV medicines will be most effective.
- **Why:** HIV can mutate (change form) and become resistant to certain kinds of HIV medicines. Health care providers use drug resistance tests to help choose the most effective HIV medicine for you.



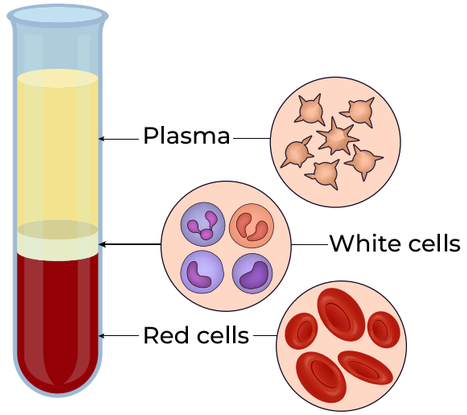
Coinfection Testing

- **What:** Checks if a person has acquired infections in addition to HIV. Different infections require different testing.
- **Why:** Having HIV can increase your likelihood of getting other infections. The earlier your health care provider can diagnose an infection, the sooner you can start treatment.



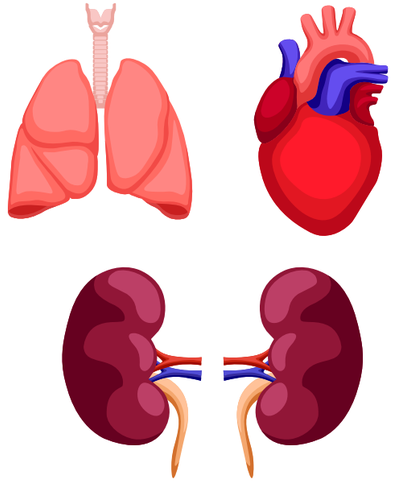
Complete Blood Count (CBC)

- **What:** Measures oxygen-carrying red blood cells, infection-fighting white blood cells, and blood-clotting platelets.
- **Why:** CBCs help track overall health. Abnormal results can help health care providers spot infections or other medical issues.



Blood Chemistry Tests

- **What:** Monitors the health of your organs like your heart, liver, and kidneys by measuring chemicals in your blood.
- **Why:** Abnormal results can help health care providers spot potential complications from HIV or side effects from HIV medicines.



Check with your healthcare provider on how often these tests should be done.

For more information, visit HIVinfo.NIH.gov.

HIVinfo.NIH.gov