



## **Proficiency Testing (PT)**

**Participation in a PT program is an expectation for each test location participating in the BC HIV POCT Program.** PT is a quality indicator (assessment) of location performance for the BC Program, and should be one for the testing location.

Proficiency Testing (PT) is a higher-level Quality Assurance activity that is conducted two to three times per year when an external provider sends unknown test samples to all test locations with a subscription. Proficiency testing may be included as a competence check if different test providers do the testing for each test event.

Each test location is expected to test the unknown materials and enter their results into an online database. Once all the results have been entered, each test location receives a report of their results compared to the expected results and will be able to compare themselves to other test locations (note: names of other test locations participating in the PT program will not be visible to other users) and identify if there are concerns with testing at their test location.

The BC Program contracts the services necessary for PT with an external provider on behalf of test locations affiliated with the provincial program, and pays for the yearly contracts. The BC Program sees the results from participating test locations, but the identity of individual test providers is not part of the report. Health Authority partners receive a performance report for each test location falling within the Health Authority geographic region.

### **Unacceptable PT Results**

Unacceptable PT results include both the failure to submit results and the submission of incorrect results. The BC Program Lead requests an investigation into the circumstances resulting in these results. Health Authority partners are included in the discussions. Additional testing of unknown samples may be required for some testing locations based on the type and cause of unacceptable results.