

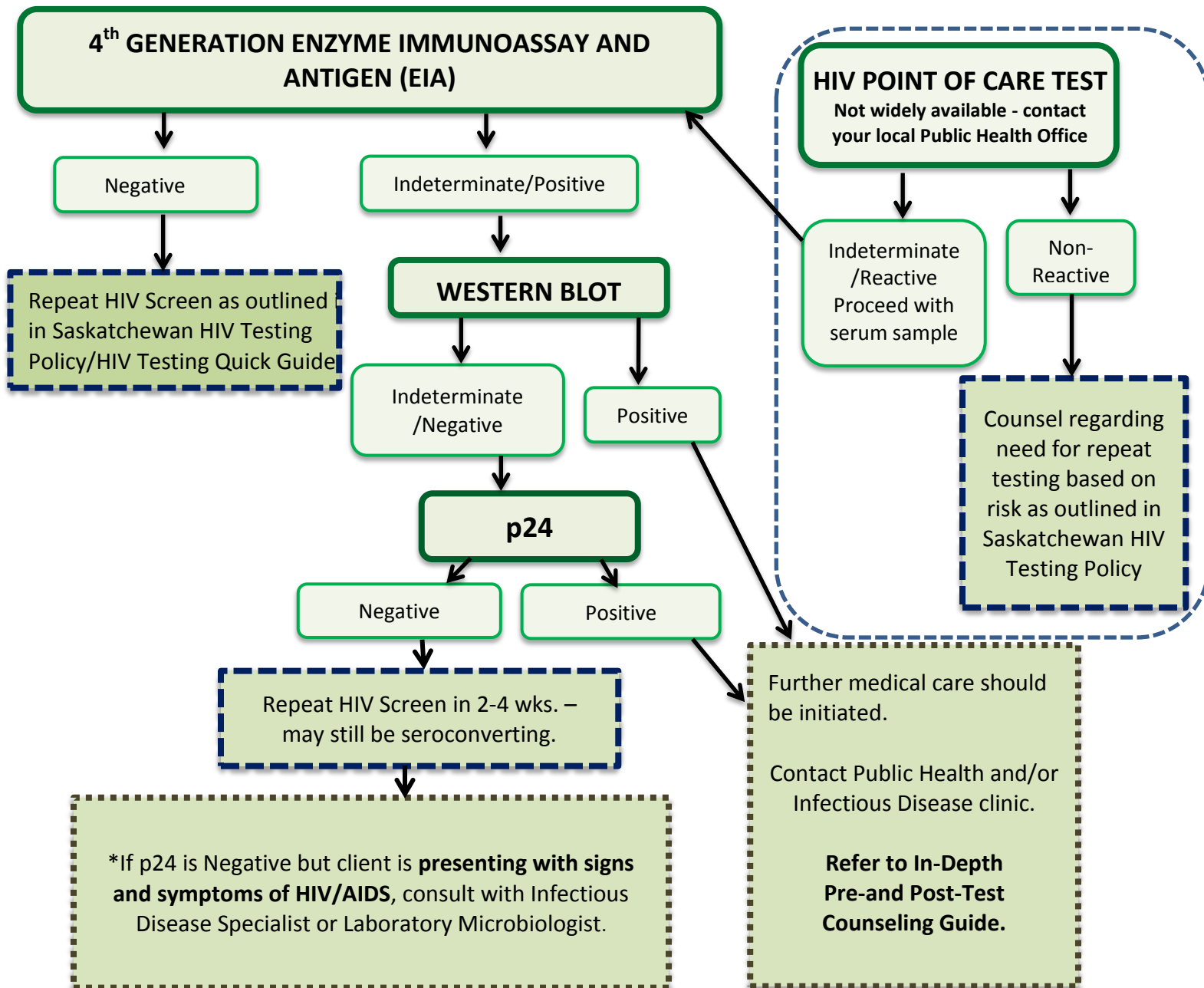
# Saskatchewan HIV Testing Policy

## HIV Diagnostic Lab Testing Flow Chart

### Supplemental Information

Confirmatory testing is done automatically by Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory.  
Test providers are not expected to order or determine the need for confirmatory testing.

Test providers **are** expected to order repeat HIV Screen, Consult or Refer as indicated in the dotted boxes below.



For assistance with HIV testing or to reach your local Public Health/Infectious Disease resources, call HealthLine at 811.

*HIV Testing in BC Resource Document for Health Professionals, June 2010 .*  
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory Newsletter, November 2012, Volume 1, Number 2

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION EIA TEST - COMBINATION (HIV 1 and 2) ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY and p24 ANTIGEN**

- The basic screening test for HIV in Saskatchewan. **All further confirmatory testing is done automatically** by Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory as per Flow Chart.
- On lab requisition, select **“HIV Screen”**.
- p24 antigen component **may reduce the minimum** window period to 2 weeks post-exposure in some cases.
- p24 antigen component appears before antibodies, but **may not always be detectable**.
- For this reason, **A CLIENT WITH DEFINITIVE EXPOSURE TO HIV AND A NEGATIVE SCREEN AT 2-4 WEEKS MUST CONTINUE TESTING TO THE END OF THE 3 MONTH ANTIBODY/WESTERN BLOT WINDOW PERIOD** (or until positive, whichever comes first).

#### **WESTERN BLOT TEST**

- First confirmatory test to be run.
- Is considered “confirmatory” due to high specificity.

#### **P24 ANTIGEN TEST**

- A more specific version of the P24 test done as part of the EIA screen.

#### **POINT OF CARE TESTING (POCT) USING INSTITEST**

- POCT using InstiTest has been available at select sites in Saskatchewan since 2011.
  - Contact the local public health office in your area for more information.
- STAT Testing
  - In **Regina and Saskatoon** hospitals, STAT HIV Testing is run using **4<sup>th</sup> Generation EIA**.
  - In **other regional labs**, STAT HIV Testing is run using **InstiTest**.
  - **In some cases**, 4<sup>th</sup> Generation EIA (p24 antigen component) may detect new infections up to 2 weeks earlier than antibody test alone (e.g. InstiTest).

#### **CLIENT IDENTIFICATION**

- **NOMINAL**
  - Client’s **full name and Health Services Number (HSN)** are on requisition.
- **NON-NOMINAL**
  - Optional method of client identification **if client has concerns**.
  - Includes first 2 initials of first name and first 2 initials of last name (**code**).
  - Must include **HSN and Date of Birth** to ensure correct identity. Will not be run without both.
- **ANONYMOUS**
  - Available in **Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon** through Public Health/Sexual Health Clinic.
  - Clients with **positive results must re-test** under name or code.