

Ezra Long Lab Experience with the Lady

Meade Lab

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Participants

- Ms. Brenda Jn. Baptiste
- Mrs. Nancy Kenyatta Louis- Samuel
- Mr. Martin McKensie

Shipping

- ELL started shipping specimens for HIV VL to Barbados in 2009.
- Specimens are sent on LIAT from St Lucia to Barbados.
- Samples are collected on a **weekly** basis, batched and shipped **monthly** from St Lucia to Barbados.
- Shipment has to be prepared early in the morning to be collected immediately by driver/custom's broker for transport to Barbados.
- This is due to the fact that there is only one LIAT flight per day. The samples are shipped in a box with lots of ice.

Expectations

- **Accurate reliable results which are timely.**
- **Turn around time is good** which is approximately 3 weeks.
- Since patients visit the local clinic once every three months then this turn around time fits in well with the clinic schedule.
- The mode of transmission of results is via email which is very convenient and efficient.

Expenses

- All expenses incurred are currently taken care of by **PAHO**.
- Prior to PAHO taking care of the expenses it was the **World Bank Project** that was making the payments.

Challenges

▣ LOCAL LEVEL

- ▣ **CHALLENGE:** There was no -70° C freezer for sample storage, -70° C being the recommended temperature for storing samples. Because of this limitation samples had to be stored in a -20° C freezer.
- ▣ **SOLUTION:** However, Ezra Long Laboratory has recently acquired a -70° C freezer which shall be installed soon.

▣ GENERAL

- ▣ **CHALLENGE:** In the past the boxes used for shipping samples were not returned to Ezra Long Laboratory.
- ▣ The reason is that the responsibility for the payment with regards to returning the boxes were not clearly defined.
- ▣ **SOLUTION:** This has now been rectified, and the boxes are being returned.



THE END

■ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: