FIGURE 1. Proposed alternative diagnostic algorithm for HIV diagnosis

Sensitive HIV-1/HIV-2 immunoassay (Such as fourth-generation antigen/antibody assay)

POSITIVE

HIV-1/HIV-2 type-differentiating immunoassay

NEGATIVE (Negative for HIV-1/HIV-2 and for p24 antigen*)

STOP

HIV-1(+) (HIV-1 antibodies detected)
Initiate Care

HIV-2(+) (HIV-2 antibodies detected)
Initiate Care

HIV-1(+)/HIV-2(+) (Antibodies detected for both HIV-1 and HIV-2)

Perform additional testing (to exclude dual HIV-1/HIV-2 infection), and
Initiate care (after co-infection status has been determined)

HIV-1 RNA

RNA(+) (Acute HIV-1 infection)
Initiate Care

RNA(−) (Negative for HIV-1)
STOP

HIV-1(−)/HIV-2(−) (No antibodies detected for either HIV-1 or HIV-2)

*If antigen/antibody combination test is used, then p24 antigen would also be negative. Adapted from the CDC.