Figure 2. CDC/APHL Recommended Laboratory HIV Testing Algorithm for Serum or Plasma Specimens

**Step 1. HIV – 1/2 Ag/Ab immunoassay (4th generation*)**

- (+) reactive test result
- (-) nonreactive test result
- Negative for HIV-1 and HIV-2 Abs and HIV-1 p24 Ag

**Step 2. HIV – 1/2 Ab differentiation immunoassay**

- HIV-1 (+) HIV-2 (-) HIV-1 Abs detected
- HIV-1 (-) HIV-2 (+) HIV-2 Abs detected
- HIV-1 (+) HIV-2 (+) HIV-2 Abs detected (undifferentiated)
- HIV-1 (-) or indeterminate HIV-2 (-)

**Step 3. HIV – 1 NAT**

- HIV-1 NAT (+) Acute HIV-1 infection
- HIV-1 NAT (-) Negative for HIV-1


(+) reactive test result; (-) nonreactive test result.

*Exception: As of April 2016, data are insufficient to recommend use of the FDA-approved rapid HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab combination immunoassay as the initial assay in the algorithm.