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# Plaque Forming Unit

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Plaque Forming Unit*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C67264.

A measure of viable infectious entities (e.g. viral particles or group of particles) in the specimen or product defined as the smallest quantity that can produce a cytopathic effect in the host cell culture challenged with the defined inoculum, visible under the microscope and/or to the naked eye as a plaque. A number of plaque forming units (PFU) per unit volume is a conventional way to refer the titer of an infective entity in a specimen or preparation.