Effective immediately Laboratory Service Center will stop send outs for Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) IgM Antibody, due to testing being discontinued at Mayo Clinic Laboratories, our reference laboratory.

HSV IgM testing has several limitations, including:
1) the inability to accurately differentiate between HSV-1 and HSV-2,
2) prolonged time (10-21 days) between infection and seroconversion,
3) prolonged positivity (3-6 months or longer) of anti-HSV IgM antibodies following infection.

Collectively, these characteristics significantly limit the use of anti-HSV IgM as a marker of acute or recent HSV infection. Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) do not recommend anti-HSV IgM antibody testing. For diagnosis of acute HSV infection, molecular testing for clinically-affected areas (e.g., genital or dermal lesions, blood, CSF) is recommended. For determination of patient exposure history to HSV, type-specific HSV IgG testing is recommended.

Recommended Alternative Tests:
- Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Qualitative PCR, non-CSF (Test Code HSVPCR)
- Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Qualitative PCR, blood (Test Code LHSVBS)
- Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel, PCR, CSF (Test Code MEPNL)
- Herpes simplex type 1 and 2 IgG Ab (Test Code HSVABB)

References:
- CDC. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015. MMWR. 2015;64(3).

If you have any questions, please contact Laboratory Service Center at 773-702-1316 or Vera Tesic, MD at 773-702-2677.