



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO MEDICINE &  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**DATE:** February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TO:** UCM Medical Staff, Housestaff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

**FROM:** Xander van Wijk, PhD, DABCC  
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Professor of Pathology; Medical Director of Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories

**RE: Changes in HIV testing**

Effective February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, HIV screening will be performed in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratories by an automated sandwich immunoassay (Roche Cobas Elecsys HIV combi PT). This test replaces the currently used multiplex flow immunoassay (BioPlex 2200) performed in the Clinical Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory and the chromatographic immunoassay (Alere Determine HIV1/2 Ag/Ab) performed in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratories.

This new test detects HIV-1 p24 antigen and antibodies to HIV-1 (groups M and O) and HIV-2; however, it does **NOT distinguish between antibody and antigen positivity**. Results will be reported in the same location in Epic under 'Infectious Diseases' with **result name 'HIV Ab Ag with Reflex'**.

In line with CDC guidelines, and as is current practice: if REACTIVE, this new test will reflex to HIV Ab Supplemental/Differentiation (detection of antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2) and HIV-1 viral load with additional charges.

The current test codes (LABISHIVSC and LABCHGIVSC) in EPIC will be replaced with LABCHHIVSCR in order sets and on preference lists. LABISHIVSC be removed from EPIC completely on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Specimen requirements are unchanged. Please collect a full 10-mL lavender top tube.

This test should be ordered only on patients  $\geq 2$  years of age. For patients  $< 2$  years of age, please order HIV-1 RNA Qualitative PCR (test code HIVQL).

If you have any questions, please contact one of us by email at [xvanwijk@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:xvanwijk@bsd.uchicago.edu), [jyeo@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:jyeo@bsd.uchicago.edu), or [kbeavis@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:kbeavis@bsd.uchicago.edu); or contact Scott Matushek, Laboratory Manager, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories, at 773-702-4116, or Sarah Groboske, Laboratory Manager, Clinical Chemistry Laboratories, at 773-702-9356.