



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago
Medicine

Clinical Laboratories

To: Medical Staff, House Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

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Date: 3/9/2023

Subject: Viral Load and Qualitative PCR Test Update

Effective Date: 3/9/2023

Laboratory Section: Microbiology/Immunology

Summary: We have experienced an unexpected failure of high throughput molecular virology instrument used to perform the following tests:

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Influenza PCR, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Viral Load, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Viral Load, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) Viral Load, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), quantitative PCR, EBV quantitative PCR, and BK Virus quantitative PCRs.

Upon assessment from engineers, determination was made that the instrument cannot be repaired and needs to be replaced. Until then, viral loads and quantitative PCR assays will be sent out to Mayo Medical laboratories. Hence, the turnaround time expectations for these tests will change from 1-3 days to 4-5 days. Additionally, in order to streamline send out workflow and to accommodate Mayo laboratories test requirements, EPIC test order codes and sample types will be updated as listed below in the table.

| Current EPIC Procedure Name | Revised Epic Send Out Name | Mayo Test code | *Sample Type |
|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| HEP C VIRAL LOAD [LAMDHCVL] | HEP C VIRAL LOAD - SO | HCVQN | *SST (Gold Top) Min. Volume 3.5 ml |
| HEP B VIRAL LOAD [LABMDHB] | HEP B VIRAL LOAD - SO | HBVQN | *SST (Gold Top) Min. Volume 3.5 ml |
| HIV-1 VIRAL LOAD [LABMDVILO] | HIV-1 RNA Detection and Quantification - SO | HIVQN | EDTA LAV 6 ml |
| HIV-1QUALITATIV RNA LABMIHIVQAL | HIV-1 RNA Detection and Quantification- SO | HIVQN | EDTA LAV 6 ml |
| CMV BY PCR, QUANT., BLOOD [LABMICMVP] | CMV BY PCR, QUANT., BLOOD - SO | CMVQN | EDTA LAV 6 ml |
| CYTOMEGALOVIRUS QUALITATIVE PCR, OTHER [LABMICMVO] | CYTOMEGALOVIRUS QUALITATIVE PCR, OTHER - SO | CMVPV | Sterile container |
| EBV QUANTITATIVE PCR, BLOOD [LABMIEBVQ] | EBV QUANTITATIVE PCR, BLOOD - SO | EBVQN | EDTA LAV 6 ml |
| BK VIRUS BY PCR, QUANT., BLOOD [LABMIBKVP] | BK VIRUS BY PCR, QUANT., BLOOD - SO | PBKQN | EDTA LAV 6 ml |
| BK VIRUS QUANTITATIVE PCR, URINE [LABMIBKVU] | BK VIRUS QUANTITATIVE PCR, URINE - SO | UBKQN | COBAS PCR URINE |

* Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex to Viral Load, HCVAB and Hepatitis B Viral Load specimen type change from EDTA plasma to serum SST



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All SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Influenza PCR tests will continue to be performed in house. These tests have been moved to a different platform, which has greatly reduced throughput capacity, but operations rearrangement has been made within the laboratory to maintain current TAT. We are working with supply chain and facilities to resume normal operations as soon as possible. We will communicate any further adjustments to work as needed.

Questions: If there are any questions regarding the change, test requirements or ordering, please contact:

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