



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

From: Kathleen G. Beavis MD, Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology
Vera Tesic, MD, MS, D (ABMM) Medical Director, Laboratory Service Center
Zelalem Tadesse (Zee) MBA, MS, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} Clinical Lab Director - Specialty Area

Date: 11/8/2023

Subject: Viral Load Test Update

Effective Date: 11/8/2023

Laboratory Section: Microbiology/Immunology

Summary: We are pleased to announce the Microbiology/Immunology laboratory will resume **performing viral load assays in-house effective November 8, 2023.** This change will reduce the expected TAT from its current 4 to 5 days down to 2 to 3 days.

On Feb 23, 2023, a ceiling pipe burst in microbiology, resulted in significant water damage to our high throughput molecular virology instrument. Assays run on the instrument were then sent out to Mayo Laboratories. In August 2023, two new Roche cobas 6800 instruments were delivered to replace our previous instrument.

Performance verification of 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 PCR was performed and approved by the UCM Clinical Microbiology/ Immunology Laboratory. We will continue to send non-FDA approved CMV specimen sources (urine, BAL, tissue) to Mayo Laboratories.

UCM EPIC test order codes and sample type will be updated as listed below in the table.

Test Name	Procedure code	Sample Type
UCM_LAB BK Virus Quantitative PCR, Blood	LABMIBKVPB	EDTA LAV 10 ml
UCM_LAB BK Virus Quantitative PCR, Urine	LABMIBKVUB	Cobas PCR Urine
UCM_LAB CMV Quantitative PCR, Blood	LABMICMVPB	EDTA LAV 10 ml
UCM_LAB EBV Quantitative PCR, Blood	LABMIEBVQB	EDTA LAV 10 ml
UCM_LAB Hepatitis B Viral Load	LABMDHBVLB	*EDTA LAV 10 ml
UCM_LAB Hepatitis C Viral Load	LABMDHCVLB	EDTA LAV 10 ml
UCM_LAB HIV-1 Viral Load	LABMDVILOB	EDTA LAV 10 ml

**Hepatitis C Antibody with Reflex to Viral Load, HCVAB and Hepatitis B Viral Load specimen type return to EDTA plasma*

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

- Zelalem Tadesse, Zelalem.Tadesse@uchicagomedicine.org,
- Nedra Love, Nedra.Love@uchicagomedicine.org