



**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)<sup>CM</sup> Clinical Lab Director - Specialty Area

**Date:** 11/16/2023

**Subject:** Viral Load Test Update

**Effective Date:** 11/16/2023

**Laboratory Section:** Microbiology/Immunology

**Summary:** We are pleased to announce the LIS connection issue that prevented us from go-live on November 8, 2023 has been resolved. The Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory has resumed **performing viral load assays in-house effective November 16, 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, resulting 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, and since then we have been very busy validating these new instruments and their associated information systems.

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 completed and approved by the UCM Clinical Microbiology and 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 6 ml
UCM_LAB BK Virus Quantitative PCR, Urine	LABMIBKVUB	Cobas PCR Urine
UCM_LAB CMV Quantitative PCR, Blood	LABMICMVPB	EDTA LAV 6 ml
UCM_LAB EBV Quantitative PCR, Blood	LABMIEBVQB	EDTA LAV 6 ml
UCM_LAB Hepatitis B Viral Load	LABMDHBVLB	*EDTA LAV 6 ml
UCM_LAB Hepatitis C Viral Load	LABMDHCVLB	*EDTA LAV 6 ml
UCM_LAB HIV-1 Viral Load	LABMDVILOB	EDTA LAV 6 ml

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

*EDTA LAV volume requirement changed from 10ml to 6 ml*

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

- Zelalem Tadesse, [Zelalem.Tadesse@uchicagomedicine.org](mailto:Zelalem.Tadesse@uchicagomedicine.org),
- Nedra Love, [Nedra.Love@uchicagomedicine.org](mailto:Nedra.Love@uchicagomedicine.org)