Clinical Laboratory Communication

Changes to <u>Hospital Based</u> Respiratory Testing for SARS-COV-2/FluA/FluB/RSV

SUBJECT: Changes in Flu A/B, RSV antigen testing – Transition to Cepheid SARS-COV-2-Only and SARS-COV-2, Flu A, Flu B, and RSV PCR (4-Plex) for hospital-based testing

DESCRIPTION: The VMC Laboratory will be discontinuing the following tests: Flu A/B antigen, RSV antigen, and SARS-COV-2 PCR performed on the Aries platform. Testing for these respiratory pathogens is transitioning to the Cepheid platform and will include a standalone SARS-COV-2 PCR and a 4-plex PCR that will detect SARS-COV-2, Flu A/B, and RSV.

WHY: Cepheid utilizes a molecular methodology that provides greater sensitivity and specificity compared to traditional antigen-based methods, without limitations related to the patient's age or co-infections. Viral respiratory syndromes are difficult to distinguish clinically. So instead of testing for respiratory viruses individually, the 4-plex test offers a more comprehensive and efficient test solution covering the most common respiratory viruses.

WHEN: Effective 2/11/2025, Cepheid SARS-COV-2-only and 4-Plex testing will be available options for respiratory pathogen detection.

TESTING OPTIONS:

Discontinued Test	Test Code	New Test	New Test Code	TAT	
Rapid Influenza A & B	LAB1247	SARS-CoV-2, FLU A & B, RSV PCR (4-plex)	LAB2661	STAT: 45 min Routine: 2 hours	
Antigen					
RSV Antigen	LAB495				
(only <5 years)					
COVID-19 PCR	LAB2590	SARS-CoV-2 Only PCR	LAB2590	STAT 45 min	
			(no change)	Routine: 2 hours	
Preference lists will be updated to reflect these changes					

No changes to other available testing options for respiratory pathogens

Test	Test code	TAT	Note
COVID IDNOW	LAB2599	STAT: 30 min Routine: 1 hour	Available for ED only
Respiratory Panel PCR (14-pathogen multiplex panel)	LAB2580	STAT: not available Routine: 48 hours	Should be reserved for the critically ill, especially those being admitted to the ICU. Does not test for SARS-COV-2.



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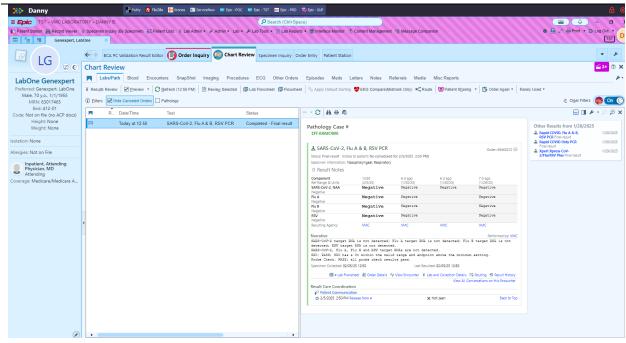
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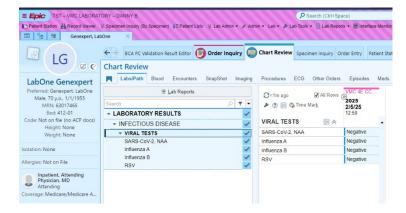
SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS: Collect one nasopharyngeal swab in red or purple top UTM, using the UTM-RT kit. Double bag and transport to Laboratory.

IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS: Recent FluMist® exposure may cause false positive influenza results. It can also interfere with detecting SARS-CoV-2, RSV A, and RSV B resulting in false negatives for these tests.

RESULT REPORTING:

Chart Review







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ACTION:

- Clinicians and staff should review available testing and ensure appropriate test selection based on clinical needs.
- Clinicians may need to add the new tests as a favorite on preference lists.
- **Discontinuation of Antigen Testing:** Flu A/B and RSV antigen orders will no longer be available.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For questions or additional information, please reach out to:

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