

Marshfield Labs announces new Influenza A/B and RSV testing

Beginning October 1, 2009, Marshfield Labs will introduce the new Prodesse *ProFlu+*™ influenza A and B nucleic acid test (PCR) that replaces the current FLUPCR (RUO) test. The new clinical PCR test is an FDA-approved diagnostic assay with validated in-house modifications and will eliminate the requirement for Advanced Beneficiary Notice's (ABN's) and Prior Authorization. At the same time, we are also introducing a new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) nucleic acid test (PCR). This new RSV test can be ordered alone or in combination with the Influenza A & B. The new tests offered are:

Influenza A&B Nucleic Acid Test (PCR)

Test Code: ABNAT

Specimen: Collect one (1) nasopharyngeal swab (sterile polyester tipped swab with flexible wire shaft).

Place in pink multi-microbe M4RT transport medium, cutting off or folding wire into the tube (DO NOT wrap over lip of tube).

Cause for Rejection: Samples received that are not NP swabs, transport medium other than M4RT and samples that are not refrigerated.

Storage: Refrigerate up to 3 days

Available: Monday through Saturday, with analytical time of 24 hours upon receipt at our lab.

CPT Code: 87798x2

Influenza A&B with RSV Nucleic Acid Test (PCR)

Test Code: ABRNAT

Specimen: Collect one (1) nasopharyngeal swab (sterile polyester tipped swab with flexible wire shaft).

Place in pink multi-microbe M4RT transport medium, cutting off or folding wire into the tube (DO NOT wrap over lip of tube).

Cause for Rejection: Samples received that are not NP swabs, transport medium other than M4RT and samples that are not refrigerated.

Storage: Refrigerate up to 3 days

Available: Monday through Saturday, with analytical time of 24 hours upon receipt at our lab.

CPT Code: 87798x3

RSV Nucleic Acid Test (PCR)

Test Code: RSVNAT

Specimen: Collect one (1) nasopharyngeal swab (sterile polyester tipped swab with flexible wire shaft).

Place in pink multi-microbe M4RT transport medium, cutting off or folding wire into the tube (DO NOT wrap over lip of tube).

Cause for Rejection: Samples received that are not NP swabs, transport medium other than M4RT and samples that are not refrigerated.

Storage: Refrigerate up to 3 days

Available: Monday through Saturday, with analytical time of 24 hours upon receipt at our lab.

CPT Code: 87798

Recommendations for Influenza testing

Influenza Testing is Recommended For:

- Persons with severe febrile illness
- Persons with sepsis syndrome
- Patients hospitalized with severe respiratory illness
- Healthcare workers with symptoms of influenza-like illness (fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F and cough or sore throat)
- Residents of residential facilities (long term care, prisons) who have symptoms

Testing May be Considered For:

Moderately ill persons (fever $\geq 101.5^{\circ}$ F **AND** cough or sore throat **AND** headache or body aches)

Testing Not Recommended For:

- Persons with mild illness
- Family members of a person with known 2009 influenza A/H1N1

Interpretation of Influenza A and B nucleic acid test results

	Influenza A	Influenza B	Interpretation
ABNAT Influenza A and B Nucleic acid (PCR) test results	Negative	Negative	Negative for seasonal influenza A Negative for 2009 influenza A/H1N1 (swine) Negative for seasonal influenza B
	Negative	Positive	Negative for seasonal influenza A Negative for 2009 influenza A/H1N1 (swine) Positive for seasonal influenza B
	Positive	Negative	Positive for influenza A.-- <i>This positive influenza A result does not differentiate between seasonal and 2009 A/H1N1 (swine) influenza.*</i> Negative for seasonal influenza B
* If subtyping is warranted, please contact the laboratory for availability. Indeterminate results due to PCR inhibition are inconclusive; consider repeat specimen if clinically indicated.			

Interpretation of RSV nucleic acid test results

The *ProFlu+*TM Assay will detect both RSV A and B but will not differentiate between the two, thus a positive RSV result indicates infection with either RSV A or RSV B. Indeterminate results are inconclusive, we recommend repeat testing if clinically indicated.

Influenza Rapid Antigen Tests have been Discontinued

Rapid Influenza Antigen testing continues to not be available at Marshfield Labs. Compared to a nucleic acid test such as RT-PCR, which is becoming recognized as the gold standard, the performance of the rapid antigen methods is less than satisfactory. Internal and external (MMWR) data suggests that the flu antigen tests may miss up to 7 of 10 individuals with confirmed influenza of both seasonal and pandemic types. This is consistent with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health recommendation to not use a rapid test for the diagnosis of the pandemic strain of influenza A.

Rapid Respiratory Syncytial Virus Antigen (RSV) Test Remains Available

While availability of the Rapid RSV Antigen Test (RS-AG) remains unchanged, we also recommend use of the new RSV nucleic acid test (RSVNAT) as an alternative due to improved test performance characteristics. We also recommend use of the RSVNAT in place of the DFA or viral culture for the confirmation of Rapid RSV test-negative results when clinically indicated.

Fee-Exempt Influenza Testing at WSLH

The Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) will be offering fee exempt testing for the purposes of influenza surveillance. This option should not be considered for clinical management of patients. The anticipated turn around time is likely to be 4-5 days. Providers may request influenza H1N1 surveillance testing at no charge at WSLH if the patient has acute febrile illness and meets the testing criteria. Testing information including the revised fee-exempt form that MUST accompany the specimen can be found at the WSLH web site: <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/comdis/swineflu.dot>

Marshfield Labs WILL NOT forward any testing for this surveillance test. Please work directly with WSLH for your surveillance testing needs.

Influenza A Subtyping test offerings

We expect to introduce a clinical Influenza A subtyping assay in Fall 2009 however at this time subtyping is not available at Marshfield Labs. We will notify you when subtyping becomes available. Seasonal human influenza such as A (H1), A (H3) or B has not been detected in our testing areas since the end of May 2009. Novel 2009 influenza A/H1N1 is currently the prevalent influenza circulating in the community. Consequently, there is limited clinical value in performing subtype analysis on influenza A positive patients at this time.

WSLH publishes weekly surveillance reports during periods of active influenza transmission that provide the most up-to-date information regarding circulating Influenza strains and antiviral susceptibilities.

These reports are available at:

<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=3191&linkid=1567&locid=106>

If Influenza A subtyping is necessary please contact our laboratory for more information.

For additional information, please contact Mary Stemper, MS, Technical Director of Molecular Epidemiology (800-222-5835, Ext. 1-6283) or Timothy Uphoff, PhD, Section Head for Molecular Pathology (800-222-5835, Ext. 1-6189).