



L a b o r a t o r y *News*

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CHANGES IN VIRUS AND *CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS* CULTURES

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On December 9, 2013, the Microbiology lab will activate new test codes for virus and *Chlamydia trachomatis* cultures. These cultures will no longer be performed in-house; instead, we will use our primary reference lab, Mayo Medical Laboratories, for virus culture work, and Focus Diagnostics for *C. trachomatis* culture. The decision to end cell culture work was made due to declining test volumes, the specialized nature and expense of cell culture work, and the increasing use of more rapid and sensitive nucleic acid amplification tests (NATs). Marshfield Labs has daily courier service Sunday – Friday with Mayo Medical Laboratories. We thus anticipate that the effect on turnaround time will be minimal. Note that culture for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is included in the new virus culture codes; consequently, CMV will no longer need to be separately ordered.

The location of the results for these new tests will change in CMR from the Microbiology Panel to the Miscellaneous Lab Panel, where they will be grouped with other infectious disease study results. Results will also be viewable in the Infectious Disease by Date (Infect Ds by Date) filter on the Lab tab. However, results reported before this change, i.e., before December 9th, will not be migrated, and will remain in the Microbiology panel.

The following is a partial list of infectious disease NATs that are performed in-house which may be considered in place of virus and *C. trachomatis* culture:



Test Code	Description* (Clinic/MSJH)
<i>ABNAT</i>	Influenza A&B NAT (PCR)
<i>ABRNAT</i>	Influenza A&B w/RSV NAT (PCR)
<i>CH-NAM</i>	Chlamydia Trach Nucleic Acid
<i>FARP</i>	Respiratory Viral Panel by PCR (MSJH Only)
<i>HS12PCR</i>	HSV by PCR
<i>HSVZVP</i>	HSV and Varicella NAT Panel
<i>RSVNAT</i>	RSV NAT (PCR)
<i>VZVPCR</i>	Varicella Zoster by Rapid PCR

*See the individual entries for these tests in Marshfield Labs’ online [Test Reference Manual](#), as of December 9, 2013, for details on the acceptable body sources and specimens, collection information, and transport requirements.

ORDERING INFORMATION

The new test codes and names are as follows:

Test Code	Description* (Clinic/MSJH)
<i>RESPVSO</i>	Culture, Viral Respiratory
<i>NRESVSO</i>	Culture, Viral Non-Respiratory
<i>CTCXSO</i>	Culture, Chlamydia trachomatis

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS (SPECIMEN SOURCE IS REQUIRED)

Culture, Viral Respiratory

Specimen Type: Bronchoalveolar lavage or sputum

Container: Sterile container/vial

Volume: 1 mL

Transport/Stability: Refrigerated/7 days

Specimen Type: Throat/Nasopharyngeal

Container: Swab in viral transport medium (M4RT, M5, M6)

Volume: 1 swab

Transport/Stability: Refrigerated/7 days

Specimen Type: Tissue (Lung)

Container: Sterile container with 1-2 mL of sterile saline or viral transport medium (M4RT, M5, M6)

Volume: varies

Transport/Stability: Refrigerated/7 days

Culture, Viral Non Respiratory

Specimen Type: Body Fluid

Container: Sterile container/vial

Volume: 1 mL

Specimen Type: Ocular or rectal

Container: Swab in viral transport medium (M4RT, M5, M6)

Volume: 1 Swab

Specimen Type: Spinal fluid

Container: Sterile container/vial

Volume: 1 mL

Specimen Type: Tissue

Container: Sterile container/vial with 1-2 mL of sterile saline or viral transport medium (M4RT, M5, M6)

Volume: Entire collection/specimen

Specimen Type: Urine (mumps only)

Container: Sterile container/vial

Volume: 0.5 mL

Specimen Type: Stool

Container: Sterile container/vial

Volume: 5-10 g

Special Notes:

- Swabs with wood handles have been shown to be toxic to some viruses and are not acceptable for culture.
- Urine is acceptable ONLY for mumps culture.
- For requests for cytomegalovirus on bone marrow or urine specimens, see: **LCMV/81240 Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Molecular Detection, PCR.**

Culture, Chlamydia trachomatis

Specimen Type: Swab (endocervical, urethral, conjunctival, rectal mucosa, nasopharynx/nasal, throat, vaginal, fresh unfixed tissue, pelvic washing, seminal fluid, peritoneal or ovarian abscess)

Container: Swab in viral transport medium (M4RT, M5, M6)

Volume: 1 Swab

Transport: Freeze immediately, ship frozen

INTERPRETATION

Reference Value: Negative.

If positive, virus identified.

CPT CODES

Culture, Viral Respiratory = 87176, 87252, 87253, 87254

Culture, Viral Non-Respiratory = 87176, 87252, 87253, 87254

Culture, Chlamydia trachomatis = 87110, 87140

CONTACTS

Interpretive or technical questions: contact Dr. Fritsche or Dr. Novicki via Marshfield Labs' Customer Service at 715-221-6700. 📞