

Change in procedure for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) testing in the MGH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory.

Effective Tuesday 7/26/16, the MGH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will be implementing the Cepheid Xpert[®] Flu/RSV XC Assay, an automated, multiplex real-time, reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay intended for the *in vitro* qualitative detection and differentiation of influenza A, influenza B and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) viral RNA.

Influenza A, Influenza B and RSV PCR testing will be routinely performed for:

- Inpatients
- Directly admitted patients
- Patients in the Emergency Department with influenza like illness (ILI) who will be admitted.
- Or on requests from immunocompromised / transplant outpatients (BMT or any Transplant Clinic).
- *Please note that this test is not available for routine outpatient testing.*

Preferred Specimen types:

- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimens collected using a nylon flocked swab in a 3 mL UTM tube.
- Nasal Aspirates/Washes collected in a sterile specimen container

Alternate Specimen types:

- Lower Respiratory specimens (i.e. BAL, Sputum, and Tracheal Aspirate) collected in a sterile specimen container.

Test Name:

Influenza A/B & RSV (PCR)

Epic Lab Code for ordering:

LAB3010

Testing will be performed 24/7 in the MGH Microbiology Laboratory.

Please refer to the MGH Laboratory Handbook for further specimen and collection instructions. (<http://epath.partners.org/test/MGH/13987>)

NOTE: The RSV Direct Immunofluorescence (DFA) will be replaced by this PCR assay. The Viral Respiratory Panel DFA will no longer include RSV. The Viral Respiratory Panel DFA is ordered to detect Parainfluenza, Adenovirus and Human metapneumovirus (hMPV).

If you have any questions or concerns about this change in procedure, please contact the Micro Fellow (p.21414) or Micro Director (p.32443).