10X Essentials

Geisinger

Diagnostic Medicine Institute

Infectious Disease Diagnostics

A Publication of Geisinger Medical Laboratories
Microbiology. Vol. (3):4. October 30, 2017

INFLUENZA TESTING

Effective November 1, 2017, GML will launch our yearly rapid test options for respiratory viral pathogen testing by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

For Out-patients: Use test code ABRP (Flu A/B RSV PCR), available to lower costs for healthy out-patients. ABRP is performed by GMC, GWV, GSACH, GBH, GCMC, GLH, and GHS hospitals our large Regional Laboratory Out-patient Sites (Grays Woods, Lewistown, Pottsville, Mt. Pocono, and Tunkhannock)

For Pre-admissions and Inpatients: Use test code RPPCR (Respiratory Pathogen PCR), performed by GMC, GWV, GSACH, GBH, GCMC, GLH, and GHS laboratories.

NOTE: To avoid billing complications for out-patients, please avoid ordering ABRP and RPPCR on the same day.

RPPCR testing includes: adenovirus, coronaviruses: 229E, HKU1, NL63, and OC43, rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus, influenza A (subtypes H1, 2009 H1, and H3), influenza B, parainfluenza virus types 1-4, RSV, *Bordetella pertussis*, *Chlamydophila pneumoniae*, and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

FOR BOTH TESTS

- **Collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab**
- **Nasal swabs are not recommended (lower accuracy, especially for RSV)**
- **Place swab in Universal Transport Media (UTM) and transport at 2-8°C (on ice)**

TRICHOMONAS TESTING: Male samples are now verified for in house *Trichomonas vaginalis* testing (TVGA). Result time is reduced and now similar to that of female samples.

SUMMARY

Request ABRPCR for out-patients

Request RPPCR for in-patients and high-risk out-patients

GLH and GCMC launch PCR for Bloodstream Pathogens

In-house trichomonas testing on male samples

Check out 10X Essentials on YAMMER **https://www.yammer.com/geisinger.edu/#/threads/inGroup?type=in_group&feedId=8104830&view=all**

If you have any questions, please contact the Doctoral Directors, Donna Wolk, Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-271-7467 or Raquel Martinez Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-214-6587.

Caring

WHAT'S THE MATTER with ANTIGEN TESTING?

Why not just use a rapid antigen for testing influenza only?
Due to its inaccuracy, Rapid Influenza Antigen testing is NOT performed in any GML or GRL sites. The Center for Disease Control has deemed most rapid influenza testing inappropriate for patient use. The rapid flu tests are well-documented to be fraught with false negative and false positive test results. Despite claims in package inserts that boast accuracies of > 90%, these comparisons were performed against the much less sensitive viral culture, long abandoned in favor of molecular methods. The **sensitivity of antigen methods compared against current molecular methods generally ranges from 40-85% and the specificity from 70-80%.**

- GML is a leader in national commitment and responsibility to patients and to the concepts of population health. We provide the most accurate testing available to prevent the spread of disease that occurs with false negative flu testing, and the over-treatment with antivirals that occurs with false positive testing or omission of the RSV target. Because we care for several generations of families, and indeed the population of 44 counties, we are committed to accuracy – no family member should be hospitalized due to influenza that could have been prevented using accurate test methods and antiviral therapy. No patient should be subjected to antiviral therapy that will not help them when they do not have the flu.
- **In summary, no GML site offers rapid influenza testing.** To obtain rapid antigen testing, both Geisinger and non-Geisinger clinicians will need to triage patients to Geisinger CareWorks sites - they will offer a CDC-approved rapid influenza test, and will reflex negative samples for complicated patients to GMC for molecular testing via ABRPCR. Note: CPSL sites affiliated with Holy Spirit Hospital will also offer a CDC-approved rapid influenza method for the 2017-2018 season.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY at GLH and GCMC

Geisinger Lewistown Hospital (GLH) now automatically performs molecular testing to identify common aerobic pathogens recovered from positive Blood Cultures.
GCMC in Scranton will also launch this technology on November 2, 2017.