



TO: All Medical Staff

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DATE: October 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) Types 1 and 2, IgM Antibody Testing Discontinued

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Labcorp recently discontinued offering IgM antibody testing for Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) Types 1 and 2, effective September 26, 2022. The use these tests is not supported by multiple specialty societies. HSV IgM serologic assays, are unable to differentiate between type 1 or type 2 HSV, which limits their clinical usefulness. Furthermore, HSV IgM antibodies can persist for months following an initial infection and may be detectable during recurrent oral or genital episodes of herpes infection, so acute versus recurrent HSV infections cannot be differentiated. Therefore, VCU Health will discontinue the order for **HSV 1 and 2, IgM** testing effective October 17, 2022.

The table below lists the currently available HSV tests with the appropriate specimen types. HSV 1 and 2 type-specific **IgG** testing will continue to be offered.

Alternative Test Options for HSV

Test Name	Specimen Type
HSV 1,2 DNA Qualitative (CSF)	Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)
HSV 1 And 2 Direct Testing	Swab in Universal Transport Media from lesion or vesicle
HSV 1 and 2 Antibodies, IgG	Serum
HSV 1,2 DNA Qualitative (Serum)	Serum
HSV Culture & Typing	Multiple specimen types

If you have questions regarding any aspect of these changes, please contact Immunology Director, Justin B. Dalton, MD, at pager #3162 or the laboratory at 628-4000.