ACL Laboratories
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Test Bulletin

February 2024

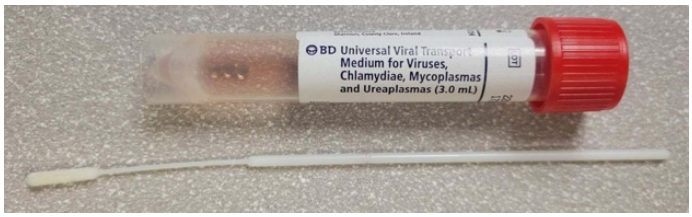
Specimen Collection Devices for Rapid Respiratory Pathogen Panel (Test Order Code LAB9039)

ACL Laboratories is seeing a significant number of incorrect specimen types and collection devices for the Rapid Respiratory Pathogen Panel (Test Order Code LAB9039). This test is only approved for use with nasopharyngeal swabs, bronchoalveolar lavage, and bronchial washing specimens.

The laboratory is routinely receiving specimens in the red capped viral transport medium with the standard tipped swabs (the collection device primarily used for COVID/Flu/RSV Panel, Test Order Code LAB10789) and white capped ESwabs commonly utilized for bacterial culture. The standard tipped swab present in both of these collection kits ***cannot*** be used to appropriately collect a nasopharyngeal swab.

Studies have been published demonstrating the efficacy of swabs of the anterior nares or swabs from a shallow distance into the nasal turbinates, which can be collected with standard tipped swabs for diagnosis of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2. However, many of the viruses on the Rapid Respiratory Pathogen Panel (Test Order Code LAB9039) will be harder to detect from anterior nares or shallow turbinate specimens. For this reason, the ***only*** type of swabs that are acceptable with this test are nasopharyngeal swabs, which require a mini-tipped swab to collect appropriately.

The appropriate collection device for this test is Universal Viral Transport Medium with a mini-tip nasopharyngeal swab (Workday # 1056987):



These devices are inappropriate for use with this assay M4RT or Universal Viral Transport medium or White capped ESwabs with a standard tipped swab (Workday #'s 1215785 and 1216307)

ACL will continue to reject specimens submitted with the standard tip swabs for the Rapid Respiratory Pathogen Panel (Test Order Code LAB9039) as it may lead to false negative results with this assay.

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at https://www.acllaboratories.com/providers/test-directory/.

New Orderable Code for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex and Rifampin Resistance by PCR (Test Order Code LAB11955)

Effective Tuesday, February 20, 2024, ACL Laboratories will offer *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex and Rifampin Resistance by PCR (Test Order Code LAB11955) as an orderable test code. Testing will be performed at both the Illinois and Wisconsin Central Microbiology Labs.

Active pulmonary TB is a highly infectious airborne disease. All patients in healthcare facilities with suspected TB should be maintained in airborne infection isolation (AII) according to recommended infection control guidelines

Testing of two sputum specimens using the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex and Rifampin Resistance by PCR assay may serve as an aid in the decision of whether continued infection control precautions are warranted in patients with suspected pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, to the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex and Rifampin Resistance by PCR assay, *Mycobacterium* cultures with acid fast smear should continue to be ordered following current processes.

The targeted population for this new assay is hospital inpatients or nursing home patients.

Refer to the table below for detailed assay information.

Test Information	***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex and Rifampin Resistance by PCR (Test Order Code LAB11955)**
Specimen Type	Sputum, induced sputum, or tracheal aspirate sputum. Early morning specimen preferred.
Specimen Volume	5-10mL
Collection Container	Sterile, leak-proof container
Transport	Ambient
Stability	Ambient: 3 days Refrigerated: 1 week
Methodology	Qualitative, nested real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
TAT	1 day
Performing Labs	IL and WI Central Microbiology Labs

For additional information regarding this test, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at https://www.acllaboratories.com/providers/test-directory/

ACL Discontinues Single Order Bordetella Pertussis PCR (Test Order Code LAB8910)

Effective Tuesday, February 20, 2024, ACL Laboratories will discontinue single order Bordetella Pertussis PCR (Test Order Code LAB8910).

Alternative laboratory tests for Bordetella Pertussis analyte include:

1. Bordetella Parapertussis and Pertussis PCR (Test Order Code LAB9910)
   Collection Requirements:
   - Nasopharynx or Nasopharyngeal: Green cap, mini tip ESwab (refrigerated)
   - Respiratory specimens (aspirates): nasal wash, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), bronchial wash, bronchial brushes, sputum, or pleural fluid in sterile tube (refrigerated)
2. Rapid Respiratory Pathogen, PCR (Test Order Code LAB9039) **(Note: Test intended for Inpatient Testing Only)**
   Collection Requirements:
   - Mini tip nasopharyngeal swab in Universal Transport Media (UTM) or Viral Transport Media (VTM) (refrigerated)

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at https://www.acllaboratories.com/providers/test-directory.

Ortho Gel Method Switch

Effective Monday, March 4, 2024, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center will switch to the Ortho Gel method for testing the direct antiglobulin test (DAT) IgG monospecific test that is reflexed from the orderable DATBS.

The previous process was to perform the DAT IgG test by tube method which has lower sensitivity. The reason for the change is to align the methodology with the polyspecific DAT test, move to an automated method, and to standardize across the Midwest region.

Providers who routinely order the DATBS test battery on patients with a history of a positive DAT may notice a newly positive DAT-IgG result up to 2+ stronger using the new gel methodology.

The DAT IgG testing change impacts only reflex testing from the orderable DATBS, and there is no change to orderable test codes or specimen requirements. Cord blood DAT-IgG testing has been performed for all locations using the Ortho gel method, and there will be no change in the reporting for cord blood specimens.

Questions regarding the change can be directed to Colleen Aronson, Technical Director Transfusion Services or Brian Brzezinski, Supervisor Transfusion Services.

For additional information regarding this test, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at https://www.acllaboratories.com/providers/test-directory/