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TO: Clients of URMCLabs

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SUBJECT: 2011 – 2012 Winter Respiratory Virus Season Test Offerings

DATE: October 31, 2011

PCR for Influenza A, Influenza B and RSV (Focus™)

(In e-Record: **Influenza A&B/RSV PCR**)

- PCR detects all three viruses, tests cannot be ordered individually
- High sensitivity and specificity
- 1 day turn-around time
- Test does not differentiate sub-types of Influenza A (H1, H3 etc)
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Rapid antigen detection by EIA for Influenza A and B and/or RSV (Quidel™)

(In e-Record: **Influenza Antigen or RSV screen/antigen**)

- Rapid antigen testing (also called EIA) must be specifically requested by outpatient locations. If request is only "RSV" or "Flu", the PCR will be performed.
- PCR automatically performed on rapid test negative specimens.
- In-house data for rapid antigen tests:
 - Specificity >98% compared to PCR
 - Sensitivity Influenza A ~50% compared to PCR
 - Sensitivity Influenza B ~30% compared to PCR
 - Sensitivity RSV~ 60% compared to PCR
- 2 hour turn-around time for the ED; tested multiple times daily for non-ED patients
- Test does not differentiate sub-types of Influenza A
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Comprehensive respiratory virus testing

(In e-Record: **Virus Culture**)

- PCR for Influenza A and B and RSV will be included in comprehensive viral testing.
- Culture for Parainfluenza Virus, Adenovirus, Rhinovirus, Cytomegalovirus, Herpes Simplex Virus, Enterovirus and Varicella-Zoster Virus is also included.



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- Although most cultures are incubated for 14 days, most positives are reported in 3-7 days.
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NOTES:

- PCR and rapid testing will begin when either Influenza or RSV are detected by our community surveillance program. See websites below for current community information.
- Testing algorithm may be changed in response to high prevalence of virus in the community in order to provide the fastest and most reliable results to our providers.
- Positive results will be faxed or phoned to the patient location.
- Influenza A positive results can be further characterized if clinically indicated. To request the Influenza A sub-typing, call the Clinical Virology Laboratory at 275-7801.

SPECIMENS

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs, NP washes and aspirates, nasal swabs, sputum, BAL and bronchial washes are tested. Swab(s) can be placed into a single viral transport (VTM) for all testing. To optimize swab collection we recommend the use of a flocked swab.

- *SMH Inpatients:* Obtain VTM and flocked swabs from the Microbiology Lab by calling (585) 275-7801
- *Off-site Clients:* Obtain VTM and flocked swabs by filling out a lab supply & document order form. Fax to (585) 295-9622 or call Client Services at (585) 350-2600, option 3.
- *Highland Hospital:* Obtain VTM and flocked swabs from the Microbiology Lab by calling (585) 341-6818.
For additional information at Highland Hospital contact:
Woody_Cichanowicz@urmc.rochester.edu Phone: (585) 341-6695

Copies of this memo are found at all web locations listed below. Intranet sites include links to respiratory virus report activity graphs. The graphs show our seasonal laboratory data from week to week.

- Intranet URM: FLUsource (under "Provider Guidance", SMH Winter Virus Memo)
- Intranet Highland Hospital: FLUsource

- Public access:

http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pathology_lab_medicine/clinical_labs/news_publications/provider_notifications.cfm

For questions or additional information, please contact the Virology Lab supervisor, Cindy Mellen:

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