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## Laboratory Detection of Herpes Simplex Virus

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

From: Dwight J. Hardy, Ph.D.  
Director, UR Medicine Clinical Microbiology laboratories  
Phone: (585) 275-1408  
E-mail: [Dwight\\_Hardy@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Dwight_Hardy@urmc.rochester.edu)

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Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) is the test method of choice for laboratory diagnosis of infections caused by Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV). Compared to traditional tissue culture, NAAT, e.g., PCR, is more sensitive and provides quicker time to results. Over the last several years our laboratory has introduced PCR testing and eliminated tissue culture for detection of HSV in CSF, genital specimens and skin specimens. The test we perform is a multiplex PCR which simultaneously tests for HSV types 1 and 2 (Focus Diagnostics); special request for typing is not required. On September 25, 2017, our laboratory will discontinue culture for HSV and begin testing all specimens submitted for HSV by PCR. Providers who make use of a “personal favorites” list in e-record for test ordering should delete “HSV Culture” and “HSV Culture with reflex typing”, and add “HSV PCR”. Customized paper requisitions for outpatient practices will be modified to reflect these changes going forward.

For questions or additional information, contact Kim Handley, laboratory supervisor, at 275-7801, or Dr. Hardy by any of the methods given above.