



Technical Bulletin

Rapid PCR replaces Antigen Testing for Influenza in Guam

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

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SUBJECT: **Rapid PCR for Influenza is now performed in Guam replacing inferior antigen testing**

The influenza virus antigen testing has been replaced with superior rapid NAAT (PCR) testing effective September 16, 2019. Influenza virus antigen testing by BD Veritor (Test code 105647) has been discontinued.

This test replacement was made in order to offer patients a diagnostic test with the highest test performance, while still maintaining a rapid turn-around-time in order to optimize patient care and outcome. The introduction of rapid NAAT (PCR) will now offer the highest test performance with a testing time comparable to antigen testing (i.e. about 20 minutes in the instrument).

A comparison of test performance for these methods was conducted at DLS-Hawaii and is shown below:

Test	Sensitivity Flu Type A	Sensitivity Flu Type B	Specificity Flu Type A	Specificity Flu Type B
Influenza A/B Antigen	83.0%	81.3%	97.6%	99.8%
Influenza A/B RT-PCR	100%	100%	96.8%	94.1%

New Test Information:

<i>Test</i>	<i>Specimen</i>	<i>Unit Code</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Turn-around Time</i>	<i>CPT</i>
Influenza Type A/B, RT-PCR	Nasopharyngeal Swab in UTM	16234	Daily	1-2 hours after receipt of sample	87502

Specimen stability is 3 days from time of collection at 2-8°C .

Should you have any questions, please call the laboratory at 646-5770.