



Technical Bulletin

Update to HSV Serology Testing and STI Panels

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

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SUBJECT: Update to HSV Serology Testing and STI Panels

As of June 26, 2023 DLS discontinued HSV 1/2 IgM testing, DLS order code 5771. This is in line with the 2021 CDC Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Treatment Guidelines and is no longer available at our reference laboratory.

CDC Guidelines

“Immunoglobulin M (IgM) testing for HSV-1 or HSV-2 is not useful because IgM tests are not type specific and might be positive during recurrent genital or oral episodes of herpes (460). Therefore, HSV IgM testing is not recommended.”

“Both type-specific and type-common antibodies to HSV develop during the first weeks after infection and persist indefinitely. The majority of available, accurate type-specific HSV serologic assays are based on the HSV-specific glycoprotein G2 (gG2) (HSV-2) and glycoprotein G1 (gG1) (HSV-1). Type-common antibody tests do not distinguish between HSV-1 and HSV-2 infection; therefore, type-specific serologic assays should be requested (450–452). “

Alternative Testing

CDC guidelines recommend type-specific antibody testing to HSV, such as HSV 1/2 IgG. DLS continues to offer the BioPlex HSV-1 & HSV-2 IgG assay by Bio-Rad Laboratories, DLS order code 4687. This assay is type-specific and FDA cleared.

Panel Testing

Any custom panels that previously included HSV IgM testing will no longer have the HSV 1/2 IgM option. HSV 1/2 IgG can be ordered alongside any STI panels.

Reference

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021.” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports* Recommendations and Reports 70, no. 4 (July 23, 2021): 29-36

Please refer any questions to Jantzen Lim at 808-589-5265 or DLS Client Services at 808-589-5101.

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