



# Technical Bulletin

## *QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus testing available in Guam and Saipan*

**TO:** Medical Staff and Clients

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**SUBJECT:** Availability of QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus in Guam and Saipan

In October 2018 DLS introduced the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-G+) Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) in Guam, which is used to assess patient tuberculosis status. In addition to clinical evaluations, this test is replacing the skin test in many circumstances such as immigration clearance and employee health. Patients can have their blood collected (6mL Lithium Heparin) at the **Guam ITC (main laboratory) patient service center** from 4:00-6:00 pm Monday-Friday.

Effective September 23, 2019, patients can have their blood collected for QFT-G+ at the **DLS patient service center at TSL Plaza (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) in Saipan** Monday-Wednesday from 1:00-2:30 pm. The time restrictions are necessary to ensure specimens can be processed in Guam and shipped to Hawaii for testing within stability requirements.

The QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus assay is an in vitro diagnostic laboratory test that has been optimized to detect gamma interferon produced by both CD4 and CD8 cells in response to specific *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens rather than CD4 cells alone. The CD8 response is important in children, recent exposures, active TB, and co-infections with HIV, so this assay has improved sensitivity in these population without compromising specificity.

CDC recommends using an IGRA like QFT-Gold Plus for a majority of the U.S. population. It is preferred over tuberculin skin testing (TST) for:

- Those likely to be infected with TB (latent or active).
- Anyone with low or intermediate risk of disease progression.
- Those who are BCG-vaccinated, or unlikely to return to have their TST read.

**Test Information:**

Test Description	Order Code	Collection Site on Guam	Collection Site on Saipan
QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)	6373	ITC (Main DLS Lab) 590 S. Marine Corps Drive, Ste. #105 Tamuning, Guam 96913 Phone: 671-646-5770	TSL Plaza Beach Road, Garapan Second Floor, TSL Plaza Phone: 670-235-0233

Please refer questions to Mary Jean Jacar, Manager - DLS Guam Laboratory at (671) 646-5770 (ITC lab) or (671) 235-0233 (Saipan PSC).