DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC.

Technical Memorandum

To: Physicians, Clinical Staff and Clients

From: A. Christian Whelen, PhD, D(ABMM)
V.P. / Technical Director (Microbiology)

Dr. Wesley Kim, M.D., Medical Director

Date: July 18, 2018

Subject: Improved tuberculosis assessments with QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus

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Effective August 6, 2018, DLS is upgrading the Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) used to assess patient tuberculosis status from QuantiFERON-TB Gold to QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus.

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. Specimen type is a single 6ml Li Heparin tube, and must be collected Mon, Tue, or Wed mornings.

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	***Tube Type***	***Unit Code***	***Collection***	***Test Run***	***CPT***
Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus, 1-Tube	Li Heparin 6mL (minimum 5 mL) no gel separator	63730	Mon, Tue, Wed before 10am	Friday	86480

Please refer any questions to Susan Krause, at 589-5126, Dr. Wes Kim at 589-5131, Dr. Chris Whelen at 589-5215, or DLS Client Services at 589-5101.