Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Clinical Pathology Laboratory
251 E. Huron Street
7th Floor, Suite 510
Chicago, IL 60611

Gregory Retzinger, MD, PhD
Medical Director, Clinical Laboratory
Phone: 312.926.2258
E-mail: gretzing@nm.org

ALERT UPDATE: SARS-CoV-2 Testing

As of today, March 16, 2020, testing for SARS-CoV-2, the etiologic agent of COVID-19, follows one of two paths: one for inpatients/ED patients, the other for ambulatory patients. Samples from inpatient/ED patients will be tested in-house, by the Diagnostic Molecular Biology Division of the NMH Clinical Laboratory. Samples from ambulatory patients will be referred to Quest Diagnostics.

Both inpatient and ambulatory patient tests are lab-developed and PCR-based. Both have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA. Because reagents and/or equipment that are not FDA-approved are used for testing, results should be used adjunctively. Validation/verification studies have been performed and reviewed, and the performances of the tests are considered acceptable for patient testing.

Test Name:
- Inpatient/ER: Coronavirus (2019-nCov19) by PCR (NMH/LFH) - LAB14518
- Ambulatory: SAR-COV-2 RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR - LAB14516

Test Code:
- Inpatient/ER: CORVPCR
  - Ambulatory: COV19

CPT Code:
- Inpatient/ER: U0001
  - Ambulatory: U0002

Turnaround Time:
- Inpatient/ER: 24 hours
  - Ambulatory: 48 to 72 hours

Sample Requirement:
- PREFERRED: One nasopharyngeal swab in M4, VCM or UTM media or

  ALTERNATE: Oropharyngeal swab in M4, VCM or UTM media or bronchial lavage/wash or nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash or sputum/tracheal aspirate in a sterile, plastic, leak-proof container.

Result Reporting:
Results will be reported as follows:

  - Coronavirus nCOV-19 Detected
  - Coronavirus nCOV-19 Not detected
  - Coronavirus nCOV-19 Indeterminate

Contact: Questions or concerns should be directed to: Lawrence Jennings, MD, Medical Director, Diagnostic Molecular Biology, 312.695.1719, or Amir Behdad, MD, Medical Director, Referred Testing, 312.926.7947.