Clinical Laboratory Test Update

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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 and one oropharyngeal swab in M4, VCM or UTM media.

ALTERNATE: One 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.