CPAL
Central **P**ennsylvania **A**lliance **L**aboratory

Technical Bulletin
No. 110

February 21, 2013

Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)
Real Time PCR Detection

Contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Wisotzkey, 717-851-1422
Director, Molecular Pathology and Technical Director of Laboratory Operations

Effective Date: February 4, 2013
Performed: Daily Monday through Saturday (Dayshift)

VZV DNA
PDM: 7000660
CPT: 87798
LOINC 11483-5

For HSV/VZV group:
PDM: 7000625
Group LOINC code: 33027-4
Includes: VZV DNA (7000660) and HSV 1/ 2 DNA (7000650).

Reference Value is: Not Detected

Specimen Types: Swabs (lesions)
CSF (sterile container) 400uL minimum
Bronchial Wash (saline) 400uL minimum

Swab specimens should be collected with BD Universal Viral Transport Kits - Regular Flocked; 220528 (or equivalent).

Collection kits (swabs) are available from the laboratory (Call 717-851-1416).

Transport Temperature (all specimen types): Refrigerated

Specimen Stability (all specimen types): May be stored 8 days (2-8C) or 30 days (-20C).

Summary

Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) real time PCR is available at CPAL. HSV 1/2 detection and typing along with VZV detection may be ordered and performed on the same specimen, if clinically indicated. Our assay targets and detects the tegument protein open reading frame 38 (ORF 38) of the VZV genome.

VZV is the cause of chicken pox (Varicella) in children and adults and herpes zoster (shingles) in adults. Chicken pox is a blister-like rash with symptoms including itching, fatigue, and fever. It can spread in the air by coughing or sneezing and can also be spread by touching or breathing in the virus particles that come from the blisters. The incubation period for the virus is 10-21 days and is contagious 1 to 2 days prior to seeing the rash and about 5 days after the rash appears when all lesions are crusted. Complications of chicken pox include encephalitis, pneumonia, dehydration, sepsis and death.

For additional information please visit; **www.CPALmolecular.com**

NOTE: *This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by The Central Pennsylvania Alliance Laboratory, LLC. It has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has determined that such clearance or approval is not necessary. This test is used for clinical purposes. It should not be regarded as investigational or for research. This laboratory is certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) as qualified to perform high complexity clinical laboratory testing.*