



UNC  
HEALTH CARE

**MEMORANDUM #137**

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators,  
Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *MB* Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory  
*PHG* Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory  
*HCU* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: January 19, 2012

**SUBJECT: New "Rapid" RSV/Influenza Combo PCR Test**

---

Effective January 17, 2012, the UNC Clinical Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory will begin offering a new rapid RSV/influenza combination PCR test. It is only available to order via SMS [browse: RSFLU] until February 6, 2012 when it will be available through CPOE. In the meantime, locations using CPOE wanting this test should simultaneously order both a Rapid Influenza PCR test and RSV PCR test. These tests will be cancelled and re-ordered as the combination PCR test by laboratory staff.

The Rapid RSV/influenza Combo PCR test is performed using the FDA-cleared Nanosphere RV+ assay, which detects RSV A, RSV B, influenza A and influenza B. Influenza A is subtyped as H1, H3 or H1N1/2009. In-house studies using nasopharyngeal specimens demonstrated 97% sensitivity for influenza A and 99% sensitivity for influenza B and RSV. Specificity was >98% for all viruses. The preferred specimen types are nasopharyngeal swabs and aspirates. Note that nasal swabs may result in false-negative results.

The turn-around time of the Rapid RSV/influenza Combo PCR is ~3h from receipt in the laboratory with the following exceptions. The test will not be available during the night shift on Friday-Sunday. It is available 24/7 on Monday-Thursday, and day/evening on Friday-Sunday.

A summary of all influenza and RSV diagnostic tests available in the clinical laboratory can be found here:

[http://labs.unchealthcare.org/labstestinfo/r\\_tests/textfiles/flursv\\_labdiag](http://labs.unchealthcare.org/labstestinfo/r_tests/textfiles/flursv_labdiag)

For more information, consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website at <http://labs.unchealthcare.org/> or contact the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 6-6101 or Dr. Melissa Miller at pager 216-6131.