



MEMORANDUM #185

TO: UNCHCS Attending Physicians and Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology/Molecular Microbiology Laboratories
Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: Laboratory Diagnosis of Respiratory Pathogens - CHANGES IN TESTING

DATE: May 28, 2019

Effective May 28, 2019, the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will change the multiplex molecular test it uses to detect respiratory pathogens from lower respiratory tract specimens. The new test is the BioFire Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP), which is the same panel currently used for nasopharyngeal swabs (see 2/25/19 memo). The RPP assay detects influenza A and B (including H1 and H3 subtyping), respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza viruses (1-4), metapneumovirus, rhinovirus/enterovirus, adenovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae and Chlamydia pneumoniae. Note that Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis will only be reported on nasopharyngeal swabs. All respiratory panel tests (NP and lower respiratory tract) can be ordered in EPIC as LAB5812, Respiratory Panel.

A summary of available molecular respiratory tests are summarized in the table below.

Table with 8 columns: Test Name (SMS), Influenza A and B Detected, Influenza A Typing, Other* Respiratory Pathogens Detected, Acceptable Specimens, Turn-around time, Testing Schedule, Charge. Rows include Rapid Influenza PCR, Rapid RSV/Influenza Combo PCR, and Respiratory Pathogen Panel.

*Detailed performance characteristics of the Xpert Xpress Flu/RSV can be found in this manuscript: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29769281 (PMID 29769281)

^bDetailed performance characteristics of the BioFire Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RP2) can be found in this manuscript: https://jcm.asm.org/content/56/6/e01945-17.long (PMID 29593057)

^cOther pathogens detected include: respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza 1/2/3/4, metapneumovirus, rhinovirus/enterovirus, adenovirus, coronavirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae, Bordetella pertussis, Bordetella parapertussis.

Questions can be directed to the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.