



Laboratory News

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Inside This Issue

**CHANGES TO NUCLEIC ACID
AMPLIFICATION TEST (PCR) FOR
EHRlichIA SPECIES..... 1**

CHANGES TO NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TEST (PCR) FOR EHRlichIA SPECIES

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Effective June 21, 2016, Marshfield Labs will change the PCR testing methodology for detection of the tick-borne pathogens *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *Ehrlichia ewingii/canis* and *Ehrlichia muris-like* (EML) to a single pan-*Ehrlichia* assay. The new assay will detect all of these species of *Ehrlichia* but will not differentiate between species. This test will continue to detect *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and differentiate this from *Ehrlichia spp.*

The lab test code will remain: **ANENAT**.

BACKGROUND

Please see [Laboratory News, Vol. 35, No. 12](#) (June 25, 2012) for general information regarding *Anaplasma* and *Ehrlichia spp.* Since the introduction of *Ehrlichia* testing at Marshfield Labs in 2012, the only species of *Ehrlichia* we have encountered is the EML agent. Because of the predominance of EML in our area and because treatment recommendations for all human *Ehrlichia* species are the same, Marshfield Labs will cease speciation of *Ehrlichia* as part of our primary identification test by PCR.

We will send all *Ehrlichia* positive samples to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) for speciation. The speciation results from WSLH will be added as a comment to the original laboratory report at no additional charge.

QUESTIONS

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