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METHOD AND REPORTING CHANGES FOR TESTS USED TO DETECT IGG ANTIBODY TO MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, AND VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUSES. (AKA IMMUNE STATUS TESTS)

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Effective on or around 10/02/2013, Marshfield Labs will move the tests for IgG antibody to measles virus, mumps virus, rubella virus and varicella-zoster virus (VZV) to a single, new platform. These tests, also referred to as immune status tests, are meant to determine the serological status of an individual for these viruses. They are *not* intended for the diagnosis of an ongoing infection.

Of note, there are two important changes in reporting that will occur:

1. Because these assays are cleared by the FDA to produce qualitative results only, numerical values of antibody concentration will no longer be reported.

2. Equivocal results will no longer be resolved with a fluorescent antibody test. We are ending this practice due to the subjective nature of the fluorescent antibody test, and because there is a lack of recommendations for the use of this approach to resolve equivocal results.

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Reporting will be as follows:

Immune	IgG antibody to the virus under review is present. This finding has a high but not perfect correlation with immunity to that virus.
Equivocal	The serological status of the individual to the virus under review could not be determined. This individual may be at increased risk for infection with that virus.
Non-Immune	IgG antibody to the virus under review was not detected. This person is at increased risk for infection with that virus.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Test Code	*Test Name*	*CPT Code*
MEASLEI	Measles Immune Status	86765
MUMPSI	Mumps Immune Status	86735
RUBELLA	Rubella Immune Status	86762
VZI	VZV Immune Status	86787

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Volume:
1.0 mL serum (Red Top Tube preferred, Serum Separator Tube acceptable)

Minimum Volume:
0.5 mL serum

Storage and Stability:
Refrigerate 7 days
Freeze >7 days

Rejection Criteria:
Plasma, heat inactivated sera are unacceptable
Grossly hemolyzed, icteric and/or lipemic sera are unacceptable

Availability:
Monday through Friday

Reference Values:
Results are reported as IMMUNE, EQUIVOCAL or NON-IMMUNE

Contacts:
Please contact Dr. Thomas Novicki or Dr. Thomas Fritsche with clinical and interpretive questions regarding this test, or Dr. Joyce Flanagan or Greg Simon with technical questions at extension 1-6700 or 800-222-5835.

TRANSFUSION UPDATES

If you transfuse blood, or are involved in teaching students, house staff, or other allied professionals about best transfusion practices, please review the latest guidelines from the Blood Center Medical Advisory Committee by using the following link:

2011 Adult Blood Utilization Review Guidelines (Revised 4-11-2013).

Also included is a link to the latest information about the advantages of adopting a more conservative approach to blood transfusion:

Blood Bulletin March 2013.