

**Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) PCR**

**#800143**

**Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) PCR**

**#800168**

**EXPLANATION:** We have been notified by Roche Diagnostics of a world-wide shortage of supplies used by their Magna-Pure extraction system. This extraction system is used to prepare specimens for the Roche LightCycler Rapid PCR platform. Because of this shortage we are asking for your assistance.

For the above listed assays our validation has shown that HSV and VZV DNA can be recovered at equal or increased sensitivity directly from the transport swab. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to place these swabs in viral transport media (M-5, M-4, and M4-RT). **Please send swabs in the original swab cylinder.**

Effective December 15, 2009, we will no longer accept specimens received in the transport medium. By conserving the Magna-pure supplies for other assays that require the extraction step, we will be able to keep our full test menu available. Please log on to [mayomedicallaboratories.com](http://mayomedicallaboratories.com) to order swabs for submitting specimens for Herpes Simplex Virus or Varicella Zoster Virus PCR.

**NEW SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:**

**Genital Specimen**

Collect a specimen of the cervix, rectum, urethra, vagina, or other genital site using a culture transport swab (Supply T092). Send specimen refrigerated.

**Throat Swab**

Swab the area with a culture transport swab (Supply T092). Place the swab back into swab cylinder. Send specimen refrigerated.

**Lesion**

Collect lesion and dermal specimens using a culture transport swab (Supply T092). Place the swab back into swab cylinder. Send specimen refrigerated.

**Ocular/Dermal**

Collect lesion and dermal specimens using a culture transport swab (Supply T092). Place the swab back into swab cylinder. Send specimen refrigerated.

Calcium alginate-tipped swab, wood swab, or transport swab containing gel is not acceptable for PCR testing.

**NOTE:** There will be no change to the file definition, CPT codes or list fees for these tests.

QUESTIONS: Contact your Mayo Medical Laboratories' Regional Manager  
Greg Renkly, Mayo Medical Laboratories' Technologist Support  
Telephone: 800-533-1710