Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) Type 1- and Type 2-Specific
Antibodies, Serum

Test ID: HSV

Explanation: This test will become obsolete on the effective date due to discontinuation of profile component, HSV Ab Screen, IgM, S by EIA; test ID MHSV.

HSV IgM testing has several limitations, including 1) the inability to accurately differentiate between HSV-1 and HSV-2, 2) prolonged time (10-21 days) between infection and seroconversion, and 3) prolonged positivity (3-6 months or longer) of anti-HSV IgM antibodies following infection. Collectively, these characteristics significantly limit the use of anti-HSV IgM as a marker of acute or recent HSV infection. Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) do not recommend anti-HSV IgM testing. Therefore, to align with the guidance from the CDC and IDSA, MCL will discontinue offering HSV IgM testing.

As alternatives to HSV IgM testing, for diagnosis of acute HSV infection MCL recommends molecular testing for clinically-affected areas (e.g., genital or dermal lesions, blood, CSF). For determination of patient exposure history to HSV, MCL recommends type-specific HSV IgG testing (test ID HSVG).

Recommended Alternative Test:

Herpes Simplex Virus 1 and 2, Qualitative PCR, Varies
Test ID: HERPV

Herpes Simplex Virus 1 and 2, Qualitative PCR, Blood
Test ID: HERPB

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Molecular Detection, PCR, Spinal Fluid
Test ID: HSVC

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) Type 1- and Type 2-Specific Antibodies, IgG, Serum
Test ID: HSVG

Questions
Contact Dunisha Messmer, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.