MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

NEW TEST

Notification Date: November 4, 2025
Effective Date: November 11, 2025

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Molecular Detection, PCR, Varies

Test ID: HSVSW; performed at Mayo Clinic Laboratories Florida.

Useful for:

Aiding in the rapid diagnosis of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections, including qualitative detection of HSV DNA in nonblood clinical specimens.

This test **should not be used** to screen asymptomatic patients.

Methods:

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/DNA Probe Hybridization

Reference Values:

Herpes simplex virus (HSV)-1
Negative

Herpes simplex virus (HSV)-2
Negative

Reference values apply to all ages.

Specimen Requirements:

Specimen Type:	Swab
Sources:	Genital, dermal, ocular, nasal, throat, or oral
Supplies:	-Culturette (BBL Culture Swab) (T092) -BD E-Swab (T853) -M4-RT (T605)
Container/Tube:	Multimicrobe media (M4-RT) or Universal Transport Medium (UTM) and E-Swab or Culturette
Specimen Volume:	Entire collection
Collection Instructions:	Place swab back into Multimicrobe media M4-RT, M4, or M5) or Universal Transport Medium (UTM)

Necessary Information:

1. Specimen source is required
2. Source information must include main anatomical site of collection

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Varies	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days
	Frozen	30 days

Cautions:

A negative result does not eliminate the possibility of herpes simplex virus infection.

Although the reference range is typically “negative” for this assay, this assay may detect viral nucleic acid shedding in asymptomatic individuals. This may be especially relevant when dermal or genital sites are tested since intermittent shedding without noticeable lesions has been described. This assay is only to be used for patients with a clinical history and symptoms consistent with HSV infection and must be interpreted in the context of the clinical picture.

CPT Code:

87529 x 2
87529 (if appropriate for government payers)

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Sunday **Report Available:** Same day/1 to 3 days

Questions

Contact Bonnie Meyers, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.