uchealth

News

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Measles Virus PCR

New Test available in-house:

Test Name	Measles Virus PCR
Epic order	Use Measles Order Wizard to order
Method	Qualitative multiplexed PCR (NAAT)
Accepted Specimens	**Swab:** Respiratory (swab): Nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal, or throat swab in viral transport media **Urine:** Clear top (non-additive, sterile container)
Results	Qualitative with two result components: Measles Virus (all genotypes) PCR Measles Virus (vaccine strain) PCR
Performed	M-F once daily, weekends if possible
Turnaround Time	24 - 72 hours
CPT Code(s)	87798

The Measles PCR assay is an in vitro nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for the qualitative detection of Measles. It will replace the test that is currently being sent to ARUP Laboratories for the UCHealth system and can be ordered through the Measles Order Wizard.

The Measles Virus (MeV) Multiplex PCR is a qualitative nucleic acid amplification test for the detection and differentiation of Measles virus (all genotypes) and genotype A Measles virus used in live attenuated vaccines (Schwarz/Moraten lineage). This laboratory-developed test is based on primer and probe designs from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) assays, incorporating modifications to improve analytical sensitivity across currently circulating strains. This test was developed and its analytical performance characteristics determined by the UCHealth Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.

Hummel KB et al. Quantitative gene-specific real-time RT-PCR for measles virus detection. J Virol Methods. 2006;132:166-173.
Roy F et al. Rapid identification of measles vaccine genotype by real-time PCR. J Clin Microbiol. 2017;55:735-743.
Beck AS et al. Sensitivity of a measles RT-PCR assay incorporating priming-mismatch variants. Euro Surveill. 2024;29(28).

For further information, visit the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratory Test Directory at https://www.testmenu.com/universityhospital. If you have any questions or special concerns, email them to cara.faliano@uchealth.org or harry.porterfield@cuanschutz.edu