ClearPoint DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

At the ConVergence Center | 2501 South State Highway 121 Business | Suite 1200
Lewisville, TX 75067-8188 |Phone: 972.966.7700 | Fax: 972.966.7799
www.clearpointlabs.com

**LAB ALERT – NEW TEST**

**NOTIFICATION DATE: 1/7/2014**
**EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/21/2014**

## Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) Qualitative by PCR, Non Blood

**NEW TEST CODE:** VZVNBL

**INTERFACE CODE:** 1004209

**OLD TEST / INTERFACE CODES TO BE DEACTIVATED:** VZVNB/1001000
VZVMOL/1002634

**METHODOLOGY:** Qualitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

**CLINICAL UTILITY:** Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) is a member of the Herpesviridae family that causes varicella (chickenpox) as primary infection and herpes zoster (shingles) upon reactivation. Chickenpox is a childhood infection presented as generalized vesicular rash on the dermis in normal children, usually before 10 years of age. After the primary infection, the virus persists in latent form in the dorsal ganglion and may retrograde in elderly or immunocompromised host to cause shingles that presents as a unilateral vesicular eruption, generally in a dermatomal distribution. VZV DNA in skin lesions, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and specimens from respiratory tract specimens permits rapid and sensitive patient testing and usually indicates active, not latent, infection. A negative result does not exclude the possibility of VZV infection. This assay is only to be used for patients with a clinical history and symptoms consistent with VZV infection, and must be interpreted in the context of the clinical picture. This test is not used to screen asymptomatic patients.

*Please note that there are no changes in the collection, transport and storage conditions of the specimens. This change DOES NOT affect the sharing of specimens for other tests.*

**PERFORMED:** Monday-Wednesday-Friday

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**COLLECTION:** CSF (Cerebrospinal Fluid); Body Fluids (Amniotic Fluid, Ocular); Bone Marrow in a lavender top EDTA tube; Upper respiratory specimens (nasal/throat specimens using polyester-tipped, Dacron or rayon-tipped collection swabs with plastic shafts) in M4 or M5 Viral Transport Media; Lower respiratory specimens (BAL, bronchial washings, tracheal secretions) in M4 or M5 Viral Transport Media or Tissue.

**SPECIMEN PREPARATION:** Submit 1 mL CSF (Min. 0.5 mL), Body Fluid (Min. 2 mL) in a sterile plastic screw capped container or tube. Submit 2 mL Bone Marrow (Min. 0.5 mL). Submit respiratory specimens in M4 or M5 transport. Do not centrifuge any specimen type.

Submit Fresh and Frozen tissue in sterile container. Fresh tissue must be put in RPMI media. Frozen tissue must be in OCT compound. Submit Paraffin embedded tissue in sterile biohazard plastic bag.

Submit slides in slide holder.

**STABILITY (FROM COLLECTION TO INITIATION OF TESTING):** CSF, Body Fluids: Ambient: 8 hours; Refrigerated: 5 days; Frozen: 1 month.

Bone Marrow: Ambient: 8 hours; Refrigerated: 5 days; Frozen: Unacceptable

Paraffin Embedded Tissue: Ambient: Indefinitely; Refrigerated: Indefinitely; Frozen: Unacceptable

Fresh Tissue: Refrigerated: 24 hours; Frozen: 3 months

**TRANSPORT:** Bone Marrow, CSF, Body Fluid, Respiratory or Fresh Tissue: Refrigerated

Frozen Tissue: Frozen

Paraffin Embedded Tissue: Ambient or on ice pack in summer

Slides: Ambient

**REFERENCE RANGE:** Target Not Detected (TND)

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**RESULTS REPORTED:** 1-4 Days

**CPT CODE(S):** 87798

**PERFORMING LAB:** med fusion

**ORDER / CONTACT INFORMATION:** ClearPoint Client Services: 972-966-7700 | Fax: 972-966-7799
Thomas P. Lohmann, MD: 972-966-7135

Thomas P. Lohmann, MD
Chief Medical Officer