REGIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc. (RML) Clients
From: Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc.
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Caitlin Schein, MD, Clinical Director, RML Central Laboratory Chemistry and LCMS Departments
Date: May 22, 2018
Subject: HIV Testing Update

Regional Medical Laboratory is pleased to announce internalization of the HIV-1/HIV-2 antibody differentiation test. This test is the second step in the HIV testing algorithm recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Current recommendations suggest specimens that test reactive using the HIV-1/2 antigen/antibody combination immunoassay should be tested with an FDA-approved antibody immunoassay that differentiates HIV-1 antibodies from HIV-2 antibodies. **Effective 5/22/18, both tests will be performed in-house on serum specimens.** No changes are being made to the ordering or billing of these tests.

In the event a specimen is reactive on the initial antigen/antibody combination immunoassay and nonreactive or indeterminate on the HIV-1/HIV-2 antibody differentiation immunoassay, the specimen should be tested with an FDA-approved nucleic acid test (NAT). This step 3 test, HIV-1 RNA, will continue to be sent out to a reference laboratory. Additional information for the tests included in this algorithm, including an update to the specimen requirements, can be found below:

	STEP 1	**STEP 2**	**STEP 3**
Test Name	HIV Antigen/Antibody Screen, 4th Gen	HIV-1/2 Antibody Differentiation	HIV-1 RNA, Qualitative
Test Code	3609705	3609707	3609719
LOINC Code	56888-1	29893-5, 30361-0	N/A
CPT Code	87389	86701, 86702	87535

Specimen Volume (min)	**Specimen Type**	**Specimen Container**	**Transport Environment**
ONE tube (2.0 mL min volume)	Serum	Clot activator SST	Refrigerated

Note – two SST tubes are no longer required for this testing.

Please contact Ryan Hatley or Dr. Caitlin Schein at 918-744-2553 with questions regarding this update.

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