



MEMO

To: Pulmonology and Infectious Disease Physicians

From: Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology & Immunology
Sonja Matthews MT (ASCP), Manager, Immunology

Date: September 19, 2008

Subject: Quantiferon-TB Gold Test for Detection of Tuberculosis (TB) Infection

The Quantiferon-TB Gold is a new blood test for the **detection of immune responses to tuberculosis (TB) infection**. It offers unmatched **specificity and simplicity**, providing clinicians with **an accurate, reliable and convenient TB diagnostic tool**. The Quantiferon-TB Gold assay uses modern genomic technology to provide a **result unaffected by subjective interpretation, previous BCG vaccination and cross-reactivity with most other mycobacterium**. Exceptions of cross reactivity with non-tuberculous mycobacteria are *M. Kansasii*, *M. szulgai* and *M. marinum*. Individuals infected with *M. tuberculosis* complex organisms (*M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, *M africanum*, *M. microti*, *M. canetti*) will usually have lymphocytes in their blood that recognize the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 mycobacterial antigens that are used in this test. The recognition process involves the generation and secretion of the cytokine, gamma interferon. The literature has demonstrated this test to be **highly specific and reproducible**. **A positive test result is strongly predictive of true infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***.

Test Highlights

Test Name: Quantiferon-TB Gold Test (Quantiferon TB Gold)

Methodology: Cell Mediated Immunoassay

Reference Range: Negative

Specimen Required: **Specimens must be drawn at the fifth floor RML draw site located in St. John Medical Center. Specimens will be collected Monday through Thursday.**

Test Codes: **Quantiferon TB Gold** CPT Code 86480

Availability Date: **September 15, 2008**

If you have questions, please contact Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology, or Sonja Matthews, MT (ASCP), Manager, Immunology, at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077.