

CADHAM PROVINCIAL LABORATORY

Mucocutaneous Lesion Panel to replace Mucocutaneous HSV-VZV PCR: May 23, 2023

Date issued: May 23, 2023

Beginning May 23, 2023, the current HSV-1, HSV-2, VZV PCR test used for testing mucocutaneous lesions will be replaced by the Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL)-developed Lesion Panel.

The Lesion Panel has been introduced to acknowledge the increased incidence and persistent prevalence of syphilis in Manitoba, and the frequent co-investigation of ulcerative mucous and genital lesions for both herpes virus and syphilis. There also appears to be a fairly high proportion (~8%) of submissions for HSV-VZV testing that are subsequently discovered to have been syphilis.

Please note that specimens from sterile sites and anatomic sites other than mucocutaneous, requesting HSV, VZV or syphilis nucleic acid testing, will not automatically be directed to the Lesion Panel.

Specimen Collection: Flocked swab of the base of the ulcerative lesion placed in universal transport medium (UTM), labelled with patient name and one of PHIN or date of birth.

How to request: Use the CPL General Requisition and write in the lower right-hand box marked OTHER. Any of 'HSV PCR', 'VZV PCR', 'syphilis PCR' or 'Lesion Panel' will be directed to the Lesion Panel test.

Reports: Will be delivered via existing mechanisms to facsimile, eChart and/or EMR receivers.

Important Limitations:

- The Lesion Panel is validated only for mucocutaneous specimens. It is not clear how it might perform for other anatomic locations.
- The syphilis component of the Lesion Panel detects pathogenic species of *Treponema pallidum*, including syphilis and the endemic treponematoses such as yaws and pinta.
- The VZV PCR component detects both wild type and vaccine strains of VZV but cannot distinguish them.

References/Resources: [Syphilis | Communicable Disease Management Protocol \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)

More Information: CPL [Guide to Services 2020 \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)

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