**Lab Dept:** Microbiology/Virology  
**Test Name:** HHV8 PCR, QUALITATIVE

### General Information

**Lab Order Codes:** HHV8  
**Synonyms:** HHV-8 PCR, Human Herpes Virus 8  
**CPT Codes:** 87798 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid, not otherwise specified; amplified probe technique, each organism  
**Test Includes:** HHV8 PCR results reported as Not Detected or Detected.

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8) is a DNA virus that was originally detected in biopsies of individual with AIDS-associated Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS). Experimental evidence suggests that HHV-8 is the etiological agent of KS.  
**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology/Virology - Sendouts  
**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (forward to Focus Diagnostics) (MML: FH8RP)  
**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
STP Lab: 651-220-6550  
**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours  
**Turnaround Time:** 2 - 5 days  
**Special Instructions:** N/A

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Blood  
Note: Bone marrow will be processed, but has not been validated and a disclaimer statement will be added to the results.  
**Container:** Lavender (EDTA) top tube  
Alternate blood tube: Yellow (ACD) top or Red top
**Draw Volume:** 3 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 0.7 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) plasma, serum

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove plasma aliquot into a screw-cap plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

Note: Whole blood EDTA/ACD specimens are acceptable in the same amounts as processed plasma/serum.

DO NOT freeze specimens.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimen collected in wrong container; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

---

**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:** Not detected

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** N/A

**Methodology:** Molecular detection assay using target specific primers for amplification. Amplified fragments are subsequently detected by hybridization with specific probes to achieve maximum specificity and sensitivity.

**References:**

- Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page August 2015
- Focus Diagnostics Web Page August 2015

**Updates:**

12/5/2006: Test previously sent to the UTSW Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.
8/5/15: Whole blood added as a specimen type and volumes adjusted.