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**Lab Dept:** Microbiology/Virology

**Test Name:** HSV BY PCR, BLOOD

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HSVB

**Synonyms:** Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) DNA Detection by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Blood; HSV Detection by Real-Time PCR; LightCycler HSV

**CPT Codes:** 87529 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Herpes simplex virus, amplified probe technique

**Test Includes:** Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction detection of Herpes Simplex Virus reported as negative or positive for type 1 DNA or type 2 DNA.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for rapid qualitative detection of HSV DNA.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: LHSV B)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 – 3 day, set up Monday-Saturday

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

**Container:** Lavender top (EDTA) tube

**Volume:** 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL)

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture or aseptic collection. Gently invert EDTA tube to mix.

<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Do not centrifuge. Send whole blood at refrigerated temperatures.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Improperly labeled or unlabeled specimen. Unacceptable specimen type. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** HSV1 :Negative  
HSV2: Negative

This is a qualitative assay; results are reported as either negative or positive for herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1 or HSV type 2, or HSV indeterminate. A result of "HSV type-indeterminate" means that HSV was present in the clinical sample; however, the assay was unable to differentiate between type 1 and type 2. This often results from mutations in the viral genome that occur in a small percentage of HSV strains.

Detection of HSV DNA in clinical specimens supports the clinical diagnosis of infection due to the virus.

**Limitations:**

- This test is intended for patients with evidence of disseminated disease due to herpes simplex virus (HSV). For patients with localized (eg, skin, genital) disease, a swab of suspect lesions should be collected and submitted for real-time PCR analysis HSV PCR for Other Sources.
- A negative result does not eliminate the possibility of HSV infection.
- Although the reference range is typically "negative" for this assay, viral shedding may be detected in asymptomatic individuals. This assay is only to be used for patients with a clinical history and symptoms consistent with HSV infection, and must be interpreted in the context of the clinical picture. This test should not be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

**Methodology:** Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page](#) April 2015