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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 X2 - 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 and type 2 DNA.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Direct detection and differentiation of HSV-1 and HSV-2 in whole blood specimens collected from symptomatic patients who are suspected to have disseminated disease. Aids in diagnosis of HSV infection in symptomatic patients.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: HERPB)

**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:** Every effort to minimize the risk of contamination should be taken.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

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

**Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) blood

<b>Collection:</b>	Routine blood collection or aseptic collection. Gently invert EDTA tube to mix.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Do not centrifuge. Send whole blood at refrigerated temperatures. Specimen stability: 7 days
<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

- Limitations:**
- This test is not intended to be used for prenatal screening
  - A negative result does not eliminate the possibility of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection. There is a risk of a false-negative result due to improperly collected or transported blood specimens.
  - There is a risk of a false-positive result due to contamination by target organisms or their nucleic acids, which may be introduced at the point of sample collection or testing. Every effort to minimize the risk of contamination should be taken.
  - The ARIES HSV-1 and -2 assay may not detect a coinfection of HSV-1 and HSV-2 in specimens where one of the 2 virus types is predominate.
  - The ARIES HSV-1 and -2 assay detects and differentiates between HSV-1 and HSV-2 only. It does not detect any other herpes viruses (eg, cytomegalovirus [CMV], Epstein-Barr virus [EBV]). This assay doesnot distinguish between infectious HSV-1 or -2, and the presence of nucleic acid (ie, noninfectious viral particles).
  - Results should be interpreted in conjunction with other clinical and laboratory findings.

**Methodology:** Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction/DNA Probe Hybridization (ARIES, Luminex Corp)

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page](#) September 2018

**Updates:** 9/18/2018: Method, cpt update from MML.