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**Lab Dept:** Microbiology/Virology

**Test Name:** HERPES SIMPLEX (HSV) PCR, MISCELLANEOUS SITES (MAYO)

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HSVP

**Synonyms:** Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) DNA Detection by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR); 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:** This is a qualitative Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction assay; results are reported either as negative or positive for herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1, HSV type 2, or HSV type indeterminate

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** **Not for CSF-** Order the in-house lab code HSVPP for HSV PCR CSF testing. [In-house HSV PCR CSF](#)

Aids in the rapid diagnosis of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections, including qualitative detection of HSV DNA in nonblood clinical specimens.

This test should not be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology - Sendouts

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

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 – 4 days, set up Monday-Saturday

**Special Instructions:**

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.

It is suggested that samples collected for this test be submitted in a separate collection container from those submitted for other PCR tests.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:**

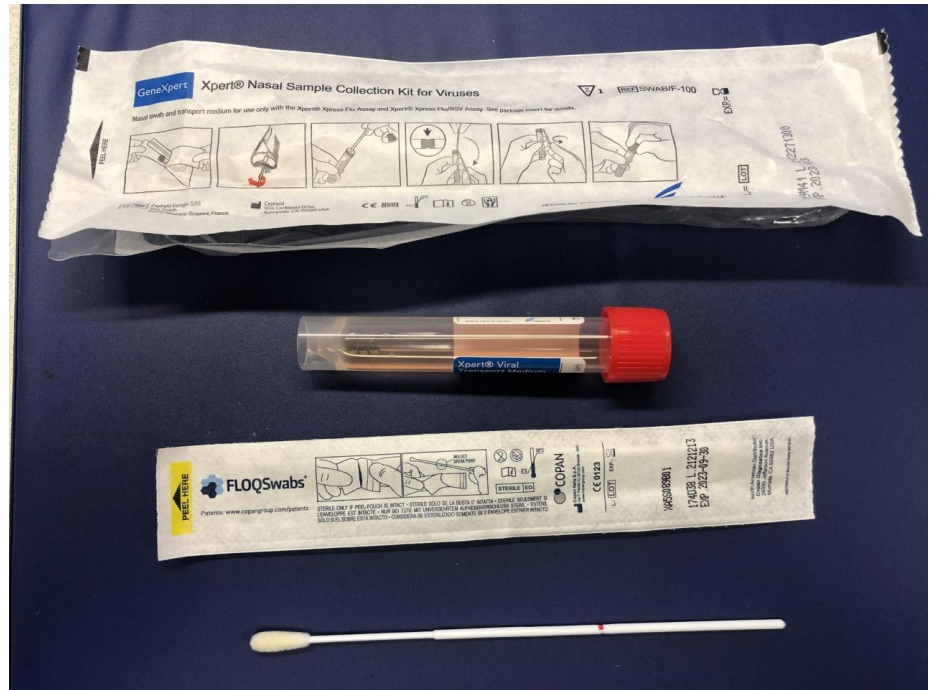
Body Fluids (**not for blood, not for CSF**), Respiratory Specimens, Throat, Tissue, Urine (<1 month old infant)

**Container:**

**Body Fluids:** Sterile container

Culture transport swab images apply to Dermal/Ocular, Genital and Throat specimens. Detail below.

Collection Kits for throat swabs:



CHC# 32720 Specimen Collection Swab Cup

**Throat:** Flocked swab in VTM.

**Respiratory Specimens:** Screw-capped, sterile vial

**Tissue (Brain, Colon, Kidney, Liver, Lung, etc):** Screw-capped sterile vial with 1-2 mL of sterile saline or multi-microbe medium.

**Urine (<1 month old infant):** Sterile container

**Volume:**

**Body Fluid:** 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL)

**Respiratory Specimens:** 1.5 mL (Minimum: 1 mL)

**Urine (<1 month old infant):** 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL)

<b>Collection:</b>	<p><b>Body Fluid</b> (Pleural, peritoneal, ascites, pericardial, amniotic, or ocular): Aseptic technique or puncture</p> <p><b>Throat</b> (Genital, dermal, ocular, nasal, throat, or oral): Culture swab collection</p> <p><b>Respiratory Specimens</b> (Bronchial washing, bronchoalveolar lavage, nasopharyngeal aspirate or washing, sputum or trachial aspirate): Sterile container</p> <p><b>Tissue (Brain, Colon, Kidney, Liver, Lung, etc):</b> Tissue collection as determined by provider place in sterile screw-capped container with 1-2 mL of sterile saline or multi-microbe medium.</p> <p><b>Urine (&lt;1 month old infant):</b> Avoid contamination on collection</p>
<b>Special Processing:</b>	<p>Lab Staff: Specimen must be processed in a clean environment in which contamination of the specimen by HSV DNA is not likely. Send specimen refrigerated in a screw-capped, sterile vial or original collection container based on specimen type. Maintain sterility and forward promptly. Send refrigerated.</p> <p>Specimen stable refrigerated (preferred) or frozen for 7 days</p>
<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. Specimen collection on calcium alginate-tipped swab, wood swab, or transport swab containing gel; formalin fixed and/or paraffin-embedded tissue.

### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Negative
<b>Critical value:</b>	Detection of herpes simplex virus in any specimen tested from a neonate (< 1 month)
<b>Significant Finding:</b>	Positive in eye
<b>Limitations:</b>	<p>A negative result does not eliminate the possibility of herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection.</p> <p>Although the reference range is typically "negative" for this assay, this assay may detect viral nucleic acid shedding in asymptomatic individuals. This may be especially relevant when dermal or genital sites are tested, since intermittent shedding without noticeable lesions has been described.</p> <p>This assay is only to be used for patients with a clinical history and symptoms</p>

consistent with HSV infection and must be interpreted in the context of the clinical picture.

**Methodology:** Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/DNA Probe Hybridization

**References:** [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) June 2023

Updates:

- 12/15/2009: MML no longer will accept swab specimens submitted in transport medium. Specimens added for Tissue.
- 6/25/2014: Whole blood specimen added for patients <1 month old.
- 4/22/2015: Blood now orderable on separate test code.
- 8/13/2015: Added images for culture transport swabs.
- 9/15/2018: Method/CPT update at MML.
- 5/15/2019: Updated to coordinate with inhouse test
- 7/24/2019: Updated specimen collection info
- 4/12/2022: Update swab image
- 6/9/2023: Updated Mayo test code, synonyms, limitations, critical value, optimal and minimum specimen volumes, turnaround times, test indications
- 9/18/2023: Clarified that this is the sendout test in the display name and that it is not for CSF in the test indications.