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**Lab Dept:** Microbiology/Virology

**Test Name:** HHV6 PCR, QUANTITATIVE

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HHV6P

**Synonyms:** Human Herpes Virus 6 PCR, HHV-6

**CPT Codes:** 87533 – Herpes virus-6, quantification

**Test Includes:** HHV6 detection by PCR reported in copies/mL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful as an adjunct in the rapid diagnosis of HHV-6 infection.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories forward to Focus Diagnostics.  
MML Test: FHV6D, Focus test: 43660

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 3 - 5 days

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

Note: Focus will accept alternate specimens including Bone Marrow, CSF, Bronch Lavage.

**Container:** Blood/Bone Marrow: Lavender top (EDTA) tube  
Alternate tube: Yellow top (ACD) or Red top

CSF, Bronch Lavage: Sterile leak-proof container

**Draw Volume:** 3 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) blood/bone marrow  
1. mL bronch lavage, csf

<b>Processed Volume:</b>	1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) plasma/serum 1 mL bronch/csf
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove aliquot into a screw-cap plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Specimen Rejection:</b>	Warm specimens; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** <500 copies/mL

Human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6) is the cause of the common childhood disease *exanthem subitum* (roseola infantum) and can reactivate after primary infection in immunocompromised adults and children. Focus performs this assay using primers and probe detecting both variants A and B of HHV-6. Quantification of HHV-6 DNA is based upon the real-time PCR amplification and detection of HHV-6 genomic DNA.

**Limitations:**

The sensitivity of the assay is very dependent upon the quality of the specimen submitted.

The results obtained should be used in conjunction with clinical findings to make accurate diagnosis.

The quantitative range of this assay is 500 to 2,000,000 HHV-6 DNA copies/mL.

**Methodology:**

Real-time PCR Chain Amplification

**References:**

[Mayo Medical Laboratory Web Page](#) November 2014

[Focus Diagnostics](#) November 2014

**Updates:**

4/21/2004: Test moved from Eastern Virginia Medical School Department of Pathology to Mayo Medical Laboratory forward to Focus Technologies, Inc. Note: CPT change from 87533 to 87532.

1/24/2006: Test moved from Focus Technologies to an in-house test performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.

12/5/2006: Test moved to back to Focus as the MML test was not quantitative. CPT change from 87532 to 87533.

4/12/2010: Added "plasma samples will be accepted".

4/25/2011: Removed whole blood as a specimen type.