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**Lab Dept:** Microbiology/Virology

**Test Name:** HHV6 PCR, QUANTITATIVE, SPINAL FLUID

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** HHV6C

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

**CPT Codes:** 87532 – Herpes virus-6, amplified probe technique

**Test Includes:** HHV6 detection by PCR reported as negative or positive for targeted HHV-6 DNA.

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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 (MML Test: 89888/HHV6V)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 2 - 5 days, set up Monday, Wednesday, Friday

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Spinal Fluid/CSF

**Container:** CSF: Sterile container

**Draw Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) spinal fluid

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:** Spinal fluid collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: **Do Not** centrifuge. CSF specimens should be frozen or refrigerated. Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Specimen Rejection:** Warm specimens, mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** Negative

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.

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

A negative test does not exclude infection with HHV-6 virus. Therefore, the results obtained should be used in conjunction with clinical findings to make an accurate diagnosis.

This assay detects both viable and nonviable virus. Test performance depends on viral load in the specimen and may not correlate in the specimen and may not correlate with cell culture performed on the same specimen.

**Methodology:** Real-time PCR Chain Reaction (PcR)/DNA Probe Hybridization

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratory Web Page](#) August 2013

**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.

11/4/2009: Test moved back to an in-house test at MML. CSF only. CPT change from 87533 to 87532.