Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: VARICELLA ZOSTER PCR, BLOOD

**General Information**

Lab Order Codes: VZVP

Synonyms: VZV PCR, Blood

CPT Codes: 87798 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid, not otherwise specified; amplified probe technique, each organism

Test Includes: VZV PCR results reported as Not Detected or Detected. This test does not include VZV culture. Refer to Viral Culture.

**Logistics**

Test Indications: Rapid (qualitative) detection of VZV DNA in clinical specimens.

Varicella Zoster virus (VZV) is a member of the Herpesviridae family that can cause chickenpox as a primary infection and can reactivate later in life as herpes zoster or shingles. VZV infection in immunocompromised individuals. VZV infection in immunocompromised individuals often leads to a progressive disease state involving multiple organs.

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology/Virology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (forward to Focus Diagnostics) (MML Test: 90522, Focus test: 45020)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 2 days

Special Instructions: N/A

**Specimen**

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: Lavender (EDTA) top tube
Alternate blood tube: Yellow (ACD) top tube
**Draw Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff:
Blood: **Do Not** Centrifuge. Send specimen in original collection container at room temperature via overnight transport.

Order this test through the Mayo Link. Mayo Test 90522, Focus test 45020.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimen collected in wrong container; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

---

**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:** Not detected

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** N/A

**Methodology:** Molecular detection assay using target specific primers for amplification. Amplified fragments are subsequently detected by hybridization with specific probes to achieve maximum specificity and sensitivity.

**References:**
- Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page August 2015
- Focus Diagnostics Web Page August 2015

**Updates:** 12/5/2006: Test previously sent to the UTSW Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.