

To: All Medical Staff

From: Richard A. McPherson, M.D.  
Chair, Clinical Pathology

And

Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D.  
Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory

Date: February 12, 2008

RE: Quantitative HIV by PCR testing

Effective March 17, 2008, the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory will change the methodology for performing Quantitative HIV and Quantitative Ultrasensitive HIV by PCR testing. Our new platform will use automated nucleic acid extraction combined with Real-Time PCR technology to achieve unparalleled sensitivity and linear dynamic range.

The reportable range of this new platform is from 48 to 10,000,000 copies/mL of plasma. We will no longer need to provide two separate tests to cover this reportable range, therefore the Quantitative Ultrasensitive HIV by PCR will no longer be orderable. With the change in technology, our specimen requirements will also change from 3.0 mL to 6.0 mL of EDTA peripheral blood (pink-top tube).

**Assay specifics:**

- **Cerner Orderable Test – Quantitative HIV by PCR**
- **Reportable range – 48 to 10,000,000 copies/mL of plasma**
- **Specimen – 6cc EDTA (pink-top tube) peripheral blood**
- **Results will be reported in Cerner in copies/mL of plasma**
- **Turnaround time is 14 days**

We, in the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory are pleased to be able to offer this added service to our clinicians, patients and outreach clients. Questions and comments are welcome at 804-828-9564.