

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV, QUALITATIVE) BY RAPID PCR

#81240

Explanation: Effective October 15, 2009, #81240, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) by Rapid PCR (**qualitative detection**) will no longer be available on PLASMA, WHOLE BLOOD or SERUM specimens. All plasma specimens submitted for detection of CMV viremia will now be tested utilizing # 82986, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) DNA Quantitation by Rapid PCR, Plasma. Clients who had previously submitted whole blood and serum for CMV qualitative PCR should now submit plasma for CMV quantitative PCR. Qualitative CMV DNA detection will remain available for non-blood sources, such as respiratory specimens and cerebral spinal fluid.

Although qualitative CMV PCR is a highly sensitive test for detection of CMV viremia, it may detect low levels of CMV DNA in the peripheral blood that are not clinically relevant to the patient being tested. Without a quantitative result, it is difficult to determine the likelihood of CMV disease, and impossible to follow levels of viremia over time. Monitoring the trend of CMV viremia may be useful for predicting the risk of disease progression and monitoring the response to antiviral treatment. For these reasons, quantitative PCR is the preferred method for detecting and monitoring CMV viremia.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE TEST: #82986, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) DNA Quantitation by Rapid PCR, Plasma (Whole blood and/or serum is not acceptable for this test).

USEFUL FOR:

- Early detection of CMV viremia.
- Predicting CMV disease and response to viral therapy.

METHODOLOGY: Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/DNA Probe Hybridization.

REFERENCE VALUES: None Detected

NOTE: A positive test result indicates the presence of CMV DNA; a quantitative value (copies/mL) is reported. The linear range of this assay is 20 copies per microliter to 200,000 copies per microliter. The reportable range is 500 copies/mL to 200,000,000 copies/mL. A result of "none detected" does not rule out the presence of CMV DNA (see "Cautions").

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS: Draw blood in a lavender-top (EDTA) tube. Spin down and send 3mL of EDTA plasma refrigerated.

CAUTIONS:

- This test should not be used as the only criterion to form a clinical conclusion; instead, results should be correlated with other test results, patient symptoms, and clinical presentation.

- A result of "none detected" does not necessarily indicate the absence of CMV infection. False-negative results also may be due to suppression of virus replication to levels below the detection threshold, or to inhibitory substances that may be present in the specimens.
- Inadequate specimen collection or storage may invalidate test results.

LIST FEE: \$371.90

CPT CODE: 87497

ANALYTIC TIME: 1 day

DAY(S) SET-UP: Monday through Saturday

QUESTIONS: Contact your Mayo Medical Laboratories' Regional Manager
Kim J. Baker, Mayo Medical Laboratories' Technologist Support
Telephone: 800-533-1710