Effective December 03, 2012, the DMC University Laboratory will offer an FDA-approved respiratory PCR Panel (RPP) test for detection of pathogens causing respiratory infections. The RPP assay is manufactured by Biofire and is highly multiplexed, capable of detecting 20 pathogens involved in respiratory infections (17 viruses and 3 bacteria) from patient specimen. The performance characteristic of the assay was verified at the DMC University Laboratories.

Below is the list of pathogens detected by RPP assay:
Adenovirus, Coronavirus 229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43, Enterovirus; Human Rhinovirus; Human Metapneumovirus; Influenza A (subtypes H1, 2009 H1, and H3); Influenza B, Parainfluenza Virus 1, 2, 3,4; Respiratory Syncytial Virus; Bordetella pertussis; Chlamydia pneumoniae; Mycoplasma pneumoniae.

Test name: Respiratory PCR Panel (RPP); Test Code: 333807; CPT code: 87798-59x7, 87502, 87486, 87581

Specimen requirement and transportation: Nasal wash or nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium. Samples should be refrigerated and transported to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Production schedule: The test will be offered 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. Test result will be available within 24 hours after receipt of the sample in the laboratory.

Result reporting: Result will be reported as “Detected” followed by the name of Pathogen(s) identified in patient sample.

Assay limitation: The assay can not reliably differentiate Enterovirus from Human Rhinovirus. A positive test for Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus should be followed up using an alternate method. RPP results should be used in conjunction with other laboratory and clinical findings, and should not form the sole basis for a diagnosis or treatment decision. Negative RPP results do not preclude respiratory infection with organisms whose concentration is below the limit of detection, or with disease agents not included in the panel. The test should not be used as test of cure.

For questions or further information, please contact Molecular Microbiology Laboratory (tel: 313-993 7098), or Dr. Salimnia (tel: 313-745 4609).

Thank you.

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