

Lab Alert:
Implementation of QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus

A new QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus test is being offered. This new 4 tube test will replace the existing 3 tube test.

There are no changes to the CPT code or the ordering test codes for this new test. You may continue using the 3 tube kits you have on hand until August 13, 2018. New 4 tube kits are in the process of being supplied.

During *M. tuberculosis* infection, CD4 cells play a critical role in immunological control through their secretion of cytokine INF- γ . Evidence now also supports a role for CD8 T cells in host defense against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. CD8 T cells produce INF- γ and other soluble factors that suppress *M. tuberculosis* growth, kill infected cells and directly lyse intracellular Mycobacteria. TB-specific CD8 T cells that produce IFN- γ have been detected more frequently in those with active TB disease versus latent infection. CD8 cells are associated more frequently with recent exposure to TB. These cells are detectable in active TB subjects with HIV co-infection and in young children. The new QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus test has two tube containing TB antigens. The TB1 tube is designed to stimulate CD4 cells and contains the TB antigens ESAT-6 and CFP-10. The TB2 tube contains genetically engineered smaller TB peptides designed to stimulate CD8 cells.

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