

Laboratory Update

February 24, 2025

Launch of Central Nervous System Pathogen PCR

Effective February 25, 2025, DMC University laboratories will offer a new, FDA cleared assay for the rapid diagnosis of meningitis. The new test (Central Nervous System Pathogen PCR) is a multiplex PCR assay for detection of the most common causes of meningitis (6 bacteria, 7 viruses, 1 fungus); see the complete list below. With the availability of the new test, the stand alone Enterovirus PCR on CSF sample will be discontinued.

The Central Nervous System Pathogen PCR (*aka* meningitis PCR panel) is an *in vitro* qualitative real-time PCR assay performed on cerebral spinal fluid of patients with suspected meningitis.

Test name in CIS: Central Nervous System Pathogen PCR

Acceptable specimen: 5 ml of CSF collected in a sterile tube (minimum 1 mL). Reliable results depend on proper sample collection, storage, transportation and handling procedures.

Test will be run weekdays Monday to Friday

- *Escherichia coli* K1

- *Haemophilus influenzae*

- *Listeria monocytogenes*

- *Neisseria meningitidis*

- *Streptococcus agalactiae*

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

- Enterovirus (EV)

- Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1)

- Herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV-2)

- Human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6)

- Human parechovirus (HPeV)

- Varicella zoster virus (VZV)

- *Cryptococcus (C. neoformans/C. gattii)*

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