



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10-10-18

TO: NPL Clients

FROM: Rhonda Burgard, MT (ASCP), BB, MPA

RE: Quantiferon TB Gold Plus Test

The Quantiferon TB Gold Plus test is a fourth generation Interferon Gamma Release Assay for TB detection, latent or active. The test is 97% specific and > 84% sensitive and is an alternate to the TST test in identification of tuberculosis infection.

This fourth generation test has added a fourth tube to the collection kit. The new tube adds an additional antigen that targets CD8+ T cells which play a critical role in immunological control in the production of the cytokine INF- γ and host defense against *M tuberculosis*. (New test code QFT4J). Interfaced clients will need to build this new test in their EMR/LIS. Please see attached information. The current three tube Quantiferon test (test code QFTBJ) will not be available after early to mid-November 2018.

The new tubes require slightly more specimen volume. Please fill to the line marked on the tube. Do not under fill or over fill the collection tubes. Shake the tubes firmly ten times.

If the tubes will arrive at Northern Plains within 14 hours of collection send un-incubated and un-centrifuged. NPL will receive the specimens as "not spun", incubate and centrifuge the tubes. Alternately, the tubes may be incubated at 37C for 16-24 hours at the client location, centrifuged and sent refrigerated to NPL. Any tubes received "unspun" will be assumed to require incubation.

Package the tubes in a biohazard bag as you would any blood specimen. Kit boxes may be discarded.

Please order the replacement four tube test kits as soon as possible. (Supply item 801661) Please discard your three tube kits when the new supply item is received.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Northern Plains Client Services at 701-530-5700.