

LAB ALERT

Date: July 21, 2021

BK Virus and Varicella test updates

Varicella Zoster Virus, VZV DNA Detection, Swab—New Test Code [VZVD](#).

A new VZV test code was specifically created for swab specimen types.

Specimen requirements: Swab stored in viral transport media.

Test Performed Daily: Monday-Friday

Varicella Test Codes Available

- **VZVD** for swabs
- **VZVDB** for blood specimens
- **VZVDO** for all other specimen types (spinal fluid, tissue and bone marrow)

BK Virus, DNA, Quantitative—New Test Code [BKVQB](#).

A new BK virus test code BKVQB has replaced test code BKBD. Please deactivate BKBD and replace with BKVQB.

Specimen requirements: One 5mL Plasma Preparation tube (PPT, White) tube or 1.0 mL EDTA plasma (minimum 0.75 mL). One 5mL EDTA (Lav) tube is also acceptable.

Test performed Daily: Monday-Friday.

Please Note: The switch to a new assay has several important implications.

- Titers will now be reported in international units (IU) per mL.
- Titers from the new assay will be approximately ten-fold lower than those from the previous assay.
 - Based on verification studies, we suggest using the following equation to facilitate comparison between results:

$$\text{Log(IU/mL)} = 1.06 * \text{log(copies/mL)} - 1.2$$

Because the new assay has a much lower limit of detection and quantitation than the previous assay, it is anticipated that many specimens where virus was previously not detected or reported as <5,000 copies/mL will be detected and reported with a titer.

Interface Build Information for VZVD and BKVQB

OrderCode	OrderName	ResultCode	ResultName	LOINC	CPT
VZVD	VZV DETECT	VZVS	VZV SOURCE	31208-2	87798
VZVD	VZV DETECT	VZVR	VZV DNA RESULT	11483-5	
VZVD	VZV DETECT	VZVCMT	VZV COMMENT		

OrderCode	OrderName	ResultCode	ResultName	ResultUnits	LOINC	CPT
BKVQB	BK DNA DET/QUANT BLD	BKIU	BKV QUANT RESULT	IU/ml	32284-2	87799
BKVQB	BK DNA DET/QUANT BLD	BKLOG	BKV LOG		44805-0	
BKVQB	BK DNA DET/QUANT BLD	BKCMT	BKV COMMENT		48767-8	