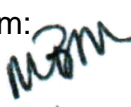





Memorandum Micro #217

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD
Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory

 Herbert C. Whinna, MD
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: December 8, 2022

Subject: New *Pneumocystis* PCR Test

Beginning December 12, 2022, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will offer *Pneumocystis* PCR testing on lower respiratory tract specimens (EPIC: "Pneumocystis PCR" Test ID: LAB906). This test will replace *Pneumocystis* Smear by DFA. Test turnaround time is 1-3 days.

Acceptable specimen types include bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, bronchial washing, and induced sputum. Tracheal aspirates and expectorated sputa will not be accepted.

The new laboratory-developed test detects *Pneumocystis jirovecii* DNA by real-time PCR using DiaSorin analyte specific reagents. The sensitivity of the PCR is superior to that of Smear DFA. Additional information is available at the UNCCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories website [link live on 12/11/22]: <https://www.unccmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tesets/pneumocystis-jirovecii-pjp-pcr/>

Questions can be directed to the UNCCMC Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.