

March 2010

## Changes in HHV-6 Reference testing at the National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg

To health care providers:

Effective March 31, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) will discontinue Human Herpes Virus-6 (HHV-6) serology testing. HHV-6 molecular testing will be provided when indicated as outlined below.

### What is changing?

- As of March 31, 2010, specimens submitted to Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) public health laboratories for HHV-6 serology testing including routine monitoring for transplant patients will be rejected.
- OAHPP public health laboratories will forward those specimens that meet NML patient and specimen criteria for HHV-6 molecular testing to the NML as listed in the table below.

Patient Criteria	Specimen Requirement	Specimen Processing Storage, and Shipping
Primary infection or reactivation in immunocompromised individuals	<b>Plasma</b> Minimum volume 500ul required. Collect blood in EDTA tubes. Do not use heparin as anti-coagulant.	Store samples refrigerated until shipped for testing. Ship on wet ice.
Encephalitis cases	<b>CSF</b> Minimum volume 500ul required collected in a sterile dry tube	Store samples refrigerated until shipped for testing. Ship on wet ice.

### NML Testing and Reporting Information:

Specimens submitted for HHV-6 molecular testing by NML will be tested using the Argene "CMV HHV-6,7,8 R-gene™ Quantification" Kit. Test results will be reported for research purposes only.

## Changes in HHV-6 Reference testing at the National Microbiology Laboratory (Continued)

### For further information:

- NML Viral Exanthemata Lab:
  - Telephone Lab: **(204) 789-6085**
  - Telephone Office: **(204) 789-5009**
  - Email: [NML.Viral.Exanthemata@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:NML.Viral.Exanthemata@phac-aspc.gc.ca)
- For more information on this PCR test, please consult the NML Guide to Services website: [http://www.nml-lnm.gc.ca/guide2/pathogen\\_engview.php?refdiagID=309](http://www.nml-lnm.gc.ca/guide2/pathogen_engview.php?refdiagID=309)
- OAHPP Laboratory Helpline **1-800-640-7221**