



Penn Medicine

University of Pennsylvania Health System

To: Penn Medicine Physicians and Staff

Date: July 9, 2018

From: Malek Kamoun, MD, PhD

Eline Luning Prak, MD, PhD

Joyce Gonzalez, BS, M(ASCP)

Re: Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus

Beginning on July 23, 2018, Penn Medicine Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will change from using the Quantiferon-TB Gold test (QFT-GOLD) to using the Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus test (QFT-Plus). The Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus test utilizes a four-tube format (the NIL, Mitogen, TB1 Antigen and TB2 Antigen).

Compared to its predecessor QFT-GOLD, which contains peptide antigens optimized to stimulate CD4 T cells, QFT-Plus contains new antigens optimized for both CD4 and CD 8 T-cell stimulation in the TB2 tube. Increased interferon gamma levels in the TB2 tube compared to the TB1 tube (which only contains CD4 antigens) are consistent with a CD8+ T cell response. Interferon gamma secretion by TB-specific CD8+ T cells has been associated with recent exposure to TB and with active disease. Testing of CD8+ as well as CD4+ T cell responses improves the sensitivity of latent TB detection. The new formulation of QFT-Plus has shown good correlation and performance compared to its predecessor with publications on sensitivity, specificity and performance.

Please note that the test results will differ slightly with positive results but the cutoff values will remain the same. There will now be two Tb Antigen quantitation values reported for positive results TB1 (CD4+) and TB2 (CD4+ and CD8+). If either or both tubes have interferon gamma levels exceeding >0.34 IU/mL, the result will be reported as positive.

For clinical questions related to this change, please contact the Immunology Resident at 215-980-9871. For operational questions related to this change, please contact Joyce Gonzalez at [Joyce.Gonzalez@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Joyce.Gonzalez@uphs.upenn.edu) or 215-662-6023.



## Bulley, Margaret

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**From:** labclientservice  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:06 PM  
**To:** GME PC; Ortolf, Barbara; Salvatore, Alicia; Regional Physicians Group Directors of Operations; Regional Physician Group Practice Managers; Regional Physician Group Physicians; CPUP DOO's; CPUP Business Administrators; CPUP Managers  
**Cc:** Fogt, Franz; Atweh, Mahmoud (Michael); Hunt, William; KAMOUN, MALEK; LUNING PRAK, ELINE; Gonzalez, Joyce; Baylock, Audrey; Nachamkin, Irving; Mincarelli, Deborah; Bulley, Margaret; Danoski, Daniel; McLaughlin, Cara; \_\_Leonard, Sarah; Long, Jeff; Acker, David; Agront, Sarita; Bahar, Wael Y; Mcaleer, Diane S; Macchione, Gerald; Kim, Sharon; Metheny, Robert  
**Subject:** PENN MEDICINE - New Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus Test  
**Attachments:** tb notification updated.docx



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Beginning on July 23, 2018, Penn Medicine Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will change from the Quantiferon-TB Gold test to the Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus test. This change will require using a four-tube format (the NIL, TB1 Antigen, TB2 Antigen and Mitogen).



If you currently have any of the Quantiferon-TB Gold three tube format left, please dispose of them by July 23, 2018 and replace them with the four-tube Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus format. You can obtain the new four-tube format by contacting the following departments:

**Outpatients:** Audrey Baylock

215-615-2069

[audrey.baylock@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:audrey.baylock@uphs.upenn.edu)

Inpatients: Immunology Laboratory  
(Prior Approval must be obtained by the Immunology Resident 215-980-9871)  
215-662-6023

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