Bulley, Margaret

From:	labclientservice
Sent:	Thursday, June 20, 2019 10:33 AM
To:	GME PC; Ortolf, Barbara; Salvatore, Alicia; Regional Physicians Group Directors of Operations; Regional Physician Group Physicians; Regional Physician Group Practice Managers; CPUP DOO's; CPUP Managers; CPUP Business Administrators; Allen, Kathleen; Grier, Kathy; Theurkauf, Linda; Viola, Kathy; Redmond, Cassandra I; Khemraj, Darci; Major, Katherine
Cc:	Fogt, Franz; Atweh, Mahmoud (Michael); Brooks, John; Hunt, William; Gualtieri, Roseann; Murphy, Alice M; Glaser, Laurel; Yu, Mei; Milano, Joe; Nachamkin, Irving; Mincarelli, Deborah; Bulley, Margaret; Danoski, Daniel; McLaughlin, Cara; _Leonard, Sarah; Vespasiani, Lynn; Long, Jeff; Acker, David; Agront, Sarita; Bahar, Wael Y; Mcaleer, Diane S; Macchione, Gerald; Kim, Sharon; Metheny, Robert
Subject:	PENN MEDICINE - Rapid Identification of Gram Positive Microorganisms from Blood Cultures at HUP and PPMC
Attachments:	eplex_memo (Glaser 6-17-2019).docx

Penn Medicine

Date: 6/20/2019

From: Laurel Glaser MD, PhD Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Re: Rapid Identification of Gram Positive Microorganisms from Blood Cultures at HUP and PPMC

Effective immediately, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at HUP will implement the GenMarkDx ePlex® Gram Positive Blood Culture Identification Panel. This molecular assay will identify common Gram positive organisms and a limited panel of antibiotic resistance markers from positive blood cultures. The panel will automatically be performed on all first time positive blood cultures containing Gram positive organisms. Molecular results will be followed by conventional culture and, if indicated, full susceptibility testing.

Assay Characteristics:

The assay is designed to identify common Gram positive pathogens and contaminants found in positive blood cultures. The rapid molecular method allows for identification within approximately 2 hours of the positive culture, instead of the conventional 18-24 hour timeframe, allowing for a decreased amount of time to optimal therapy. The panel includes targets for *Staphylococcus aureus,* coagulase negative *Staphylococcus, Enterococcus faecium, Enterococcus fecalis, Streptococcus pneumoniae,* beta-hemolytic *Streptococcus, Streptococcus species, Listeria, Cutibacterium (Propionibacterium) acnes, Micrococcus* species*, Lactobacillus* species*, Bacillus* species*, and Corynebacterium* species. Targets for the resistance genes, *mecA/mecC* and *vanA/vanB* allow for the identification of MRSA and VRE, respectively. Assay sensitivity compared to culture varies for each organism or resistance gene, and ranged between 93%-100% in the clinical trial data. Specificity was above 99% for all targets.

Please contact the Microbiology Laboratory at 215-662-3406 with any questions.