St. Elizabeth HEALTHCARE

Preferred Lab Partners

The joint venture clinical laboratory between St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Tri-Health

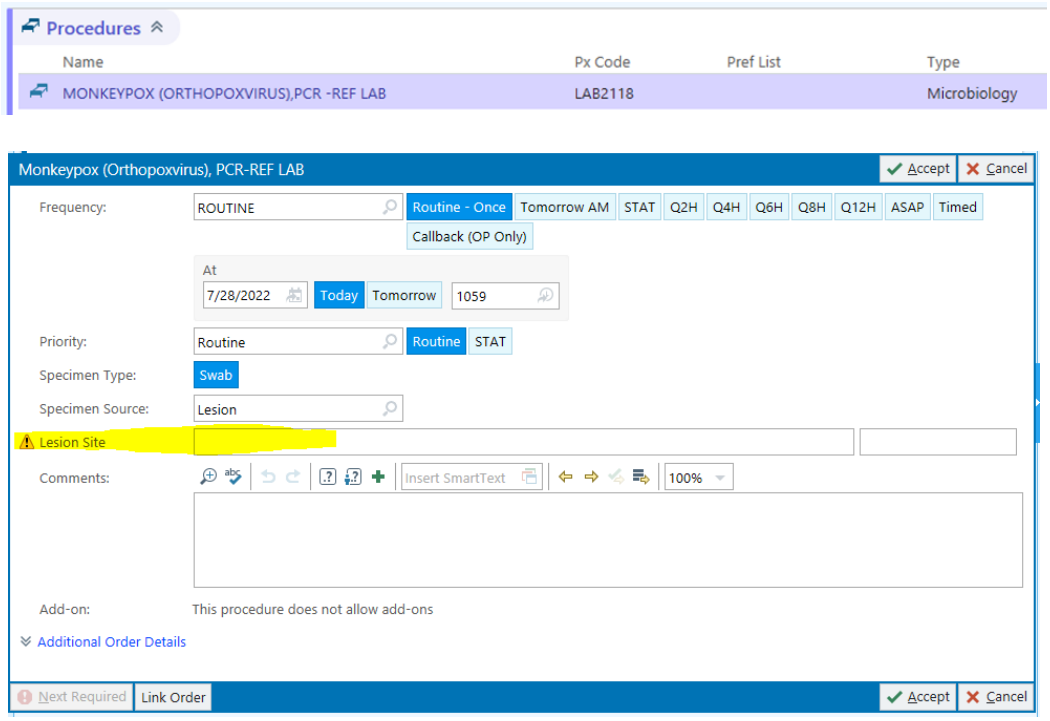
Laboratory Testing Update

Date: 7/27/2022
To: All Providers and Nursing

Re: Monkeypox testing

Beginning Wednesday, 7/27/2022, St Elizabeth Healthcare laboratories began sending specimens from suspected cases of monkeypox virus to ARUP (reference lab) for testing by real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Temporarily orderable as a MISC test in Epic.

Beginning Tuesday, 8/2/2022, **Lab 2118** will be available as an orderable test in Epic.



This assay does not differentiate members of the orthopoxviruses. In the United States, a detected result is likely due to monkeypox virus or vaccinia virus. Other orthopoxviruses may be considered if appropriate. Please refer to the CDC if additional confirmatory testing is needed.

If you have additional questions, please contact Kris Ramdat, Immunology & Send Outs Manager, at (859) 301-8035.

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Collection and Transport Instructions

UNACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS: Calcium alginate swab, wooden swab, samples stored at room temperature greater than 24 hours.

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS: Two kit options exist depending upon supply availability:

- ARUP Viral Transport Media
- Alternative kit of sterile tube with two dry swabs.

ARUP Collection Kit

OR

Kit with Sterile tube and 2 dry swabs

Label tube with source (lesion site). Source is **required** for testing.

Handling of Monkeypox Specimens

When submitting a specimen with a suspected or confirmed monkeypox infection, providers should write "**suspected monkeypox**" on the inner specimen bag. After collection return specimen transport tube to biohazard bag and label "**Monkeypox Test**" on outer bag.

Transport specimens as soon as possible to laboratory. To maintain specimen stability, please refrigerate samples after collection and during transport.

Collection kits are available from St Elizabeth Outreach Services via Client Supply Requisition form, by calling (859) 301-2388 or by contacting RJ Wooding or Tammy Naegele at (859) 301-6137.