

January, 2016

### HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS TESTING METHODOLOGY CHANGE

## M E M O R A N D U M

Beginning January 19, 2016, the Methodist Hospital Laboratory will be converting herpes simplex virus (HSV) from direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) and culture-based methods to a molecular (PCR) method. This change is occurring because our current viral testing reference laboratory is phasing out DFA and culture-based testing and converting to primarily molecular testing. That laboratory will no longer be accepting orders for HSV culture from most sources (including dermal/mucosal). For most diagnostic situations, the PCR is preferred due to improved sensitivity and turnaround time.

The change will be as follows:

- **HSV culture and HSV DFA, reflex culture if negative will no longer be orderable in CPOE.**
- **HSV 1/2 PCR, other than blood will be the preferred test.**

For questions regarding this change, please contact Tess Karre, M.D., Microbiology Laboratory Director (402-354-7842).