

### VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS TESTING METHODOLOGY

Beginning January 3, 2017, the Methodist Hospital Laboratory will be converting varicella zoster virus (VZV) 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 eliminating DFA and culture-based testing and converting to molecular testing. That laboratory will no longer be accepting orders for VZV DFA or culture. For most diagnostic situations, the PCR is preferred due to improved sensitivity and turnaround time.

The change will be as follows:

- **VZV culture and VZV DFA, reflex culture if negative will no longer be orderable in CPOE.**
- **VZV PCR will be the preferred test. This test is orderable in CPOE.**

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