**Date:** July 25, 2024

**From:** Isabella Martin, MD, Medical Director of the Microbiology Laboratory

Nisalda Carreiro, MT, Microbiology Laboratory Supervisor

**To:** All D-HH Providers

**RE:** Diagnostic Stewardship of Enterovirus PCR Test Kits

**Situation:** We have a critically low supply of enterovirus PCR test kits on hand.

**Background:** The lone FDA-cleared manufacturer of stand-alone enterovirus PCR test kits has sunsetted this assay so we are no longer able to purchase more. We will be transitioning testing for enterovirus to a Meningitis/Encephalitis PCR Panel on August 4th, 2024 (separate Clinical Lab Update to follow). Until then, we must reserve enterovirus test kits for patients who are most likely to have enterovirus infection. Studies have shown that enterovirus CNS infections will not be missed if testing in the immunocompetent adult population is limited to those with CSF WBC > 10 cells/µL (Wilen et al. Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 2015. PMID: 25568435).

**Assessment:** In order to preserve testing capacity for enterovirus for patients that need it most, diagnostic stewardship is will be required until we go live with the Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel on August 4th.

**Recommendation:** All orders for enterovirus PCR will be prospectively audited by the microbiology laboratory. Testing ordered on specimens from adult patients with CSF WBC < 10 cells/µL will trigger a call to the ordering provider by a pathologist with recommendation to cancel test unless patient is immunocompromised.

**For questions or additional information, please contact:** [**Isabella.w.martin@hitchcock.org**](mailto:Isabella.w.martin@hitchcock.org)**,** [**Nisalda.m.carreiro@hitchcock.org**](mailto:Nisalda.m.carreiro@hitchcock.org)