

**Date:** September 21, 2023

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Title:** IgM testing – no longer available

**Explanation of change:** IgM testing of Babesia, Coxsackie, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia will no longer be sent to Labcorp or Quest.

Providers will be called to request PCR or IgG testing only.


PCR (**Polymerase chain reaction**) tests are engineered to seek genetic material called RNA/DNA, results almost 100% accurate in spotting infected people.

During the acute phase of the infection, serologic tests are often **nonreactive**. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is available to aid in the diagnosis of these cases.

Antibody tests don't turn positive for two to four weeks (post infection).

IgG-class antibodies may remain detectable for months to years following prior infection. Therefore, a single time point-positive titer needs to be interpreted alongside other findings to differentiate recent versus past infection.

Paired acute and convalescent serologies should be obtained two to four weeks apart. A fourfold increase in IgG titers is diagnostic.

  
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Dr. Elizabeth Plocharczyk, *Laboratory Medical Director*

Date 09/25/23

  
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Michelle Walters, *Laboratory Director*

Date 9/29/23