



DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES
OF MANITOBA

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March 18, 2013

Dear Practitioner,

Re: Discontinuation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Rapid Antigen Testing at HSC Site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) after Monday, March 18, 2013

In collaboration with Cadham Provincial Laboratory, the HSC site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba, has provided RSV testing using the Rapid Antigen Test method from December 12, 2012 to the present. The objective of this testing was to provide rapid on-site RSV testing for the Children's Hospital (as well as the Health Sciences Centre and other centres as appropriate) given that the Children's Hospital has the patient population with the most urgent need for this testing.

The RSV Rapid Antigen Test is only used during the RSV season, related to the sensitivity and specificity of the test. As the RSV season has now ended, RSV rapid antigen testing at the HSC site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will be discontinued. Testing outside of RSV season requires a cell culture method, currently only available at Cadham Provincial Laboratory. Therefore, starting March 18, 2013 specimens requiring an investigation for RSV should be sent directly to Cadham Provincial Laboratory using a Cadham Provincial Laboratory requisition.

It is anticipated that the HSC site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will again offer rapid RSV testing next RSV season (winter 2013 – spring 2014).

Yours truly,

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