



Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Change in sequencing platforms for hepatitis B resistance and genotype testing

October 2, 2017

Effective today, the Diagnostic Virology and Reference Laboratory (DVRL) at St. Paul's Hospital will be transitioning to the Illumina MiSeq Reagent Nano Kit v2 for hepatitis B resistance and genotype testing.

A validation of the MiSeq has been completed in comparison with the current assay (GS Junior System, Roche Diagnostics), and it has been determined to be equally sensitive for the detection of HBV antiviral drug mutations, including low-level mutants.

The specimen of choice is EDTA plasma.

Test ordering and reporting will not be changed. Resistance testing can only be performed a maximum of 2 times per year per patient. Please also request HBV viral load testing if it has not been performed in the past 4 weeks, as the sensitivity of the resistance testing is viral load dependent.

If you have any questions regarding this transition, please contact the DVRL at (604) 806-8420. For urgent questions on evenings and weekends, please page the Medical Microbiologist on call through the PHC Call Centre.

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