Effective 8/7/23, UVMMC discontinued offering the Mayo test Anaplasma phagocytophilum Antibody, Serum, Mayo Test ID ANAP. The replacement test is Anaplasma and Babesia Testing by PCR, which is performed at UVMMC.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is more reliable than serology, to test for Anaplasma. While cross-reactivity can occur between antibodies against Anaplasma and Erlichia, PCR for Anaplasma is more sensitive and specific, and is able to detect each organism in a single reaction. Serology may be negative during the first week of illness, so samples from both the acute and convalescent stages are needed to detect an increase in titers. Detection of Anaplasma by PCR has been found to be increased during the acute phase of anaplasmosis. Antibodies (particularly IgG) against Anaplasma can remain in circulation for years after an individual was infected, making it unable to differentiate between active vs resolved infections. Polymerase chain reaction is positive only when the organism is present.

For questions or concerns regarding this update, please reach out to UVMMC’s Medical Director of Microbiology, Dr. Christina Wojewoda via Christina.Wojewoda@uvmhealth.org.


https://www.cdc.gov/anaplasmosis/healthcare-providers/clinical-lab-diagnosis.html