

TEST UPDATE

AFB Culture/Smear, Other - “Ask at Order Entry”

Question added

UVMMMC

Effective 12/27/23, an Ask at Order Entry (AOE) question will be added to the order for AFB Culture/Smear, Other (LAB2513). This is being done to guide care teams when making decisions regarding whether or not a patient can be removed from airborne isolation when suspected infectious pulmonary tuberculosis is in the differential. The question asks if the testing is to rule out M. tuberculosis. If answered as “yes”, the Microbiology lab will perform a PCR test to detect this organism in sputum samples.

Updated Orderable	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Order LOINC
AFB Culture/Smear, Other	LAB2513	TCS	FAH5913	543-9
Result Component(s)	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID	Result LOINC
Organism ID	1230100018	CULT	FAH4896	41852-5
AFB Smear	12301009270	AF	FAH5070	48767-8
Is this test to rule out Mycobacterium tuberculosis? (new)	111665	TBQ	FAH6170	N/A

The Vermont Department of Health has been involved with the decision to test patient samples even with a negative direct AFB smear. The PCR assay has improved sensitivity for detecting M. tuberculosis when compared to the AFB smear alone. This test is not indicated for other Mycobacterium species. A culture is the best method for detecting NTM organisms.

For questions or concerns regarding this alert, please contact UVMHC Laboratory Customer Service at (802)847-5121 and ask to speak with Microbiology.

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