



PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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TO: All Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Units, and Dialysis Units
FROM: Public Health Microbiology Laboratory
DATE: January 6, 2020
RE: Notice of PRACTICE CHANGE when Requesting BK and JC Polyomavirus Virus Testing

Effective **January 16, 2020**, requests for Polyomavirus viral load testing must indicate which specific virus is being requested, **BK** or **JC**. Ordering "Polyomavirus" will NO longer be an option.

Specimens for BK and JC virus testing are now being referred to The Hospital for Sick Children Laboratory in Toronto with an expected turn-around time of 7-10 days for BK virus results and 10-14 days for JC virus results.

All requests for BK and JC testing are reviewed by the Microbiologist-On-Call (MOC) to ensure appropriate clinical criteria for testing prior to referral i.e. stem cell or renal transplant patient when requesting BK; an unexplained neurological syndrome in an immune compromised individual when requesting JC.

Physicians and other ordering providers have a duty to provide clinical history when requesting laboratory testing. In the absence of such information, the test will be cancelled.

Please note: JC virus testing can only be performed on tissue or CSF specimens.

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| BK Virus Quantitative PCR (Plasma) |
| BK Virus Quantitative PCR (Urine) |
| JC Virus QUALitative PCR (CSF, Tissue) |

For any acute patient care questions, please contact the MOC. For questions related to this policy and practice change, please contact the office of the PHML Director.

Sincerely,

George Zahariadis MD, FRCPC
PHML Director and Chief

Hedy Dalton-Kenny MLT, CLX, B. Tech, MHS
PHML Laboratory Operations Manager