Florida HEALTH
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	Rickettsia, PCR
Other Name (s)	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Analyte(s)	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (Rickettsia), Rickettsia prowazekii, and other Rickettsia species
Test Code	9793
Lab location	Jacksonville
Department	Virology
Prior Authorization	Requires prior approval from CHD and notification to the testing lab.
Required Forms	DH1847 with medical history section completed
Specimen Sources	Venous whole blood
Collection Media	Vacutainer, EDTA or citrate dextrose
Minimum Volume	3-5mL
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	Venous whole blood specimens preserved with EDTA or acid citrate dextrose. Recommend collection prior to or within 48 hours of administration of appropriate antimicrobial agents. See additional information for more details.
Storage Conditions	Refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C after collection. Store residual specimen at ≤-70°C.
Specimen Labeling	-Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers, Ex: Name and DOB. **Information on the specimen must match the requisition.** **-Include collection date and time**
Packaging and Shipping Instructions	Specimens must be shipped between 2-8°C. Separate multiple specimens in different bags (preferred).
Test Methodology	Real-Time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) Assay
Turnaround Time	3-5 days
Result Indicator	Negative, presumptive positive, inconclusive, indeterminate
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Hemolysis and/or Lipemia. Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens, insufficient quantity for testing, incorrect collection tube, grossly contaminated specimen, disparity between ID on sample and paperwork, improper collection, storage or transport of specimen, no test requested, test requested is not performed. If required, absence of patient history. If required, lack of patient history compatibly with test requested. Test order cancelled by provider, broken or leaked in transit.
Interferences and Limitations	Hemolysis, increased lipemia, microbial growth, early antibiotic therapy.
Additional Information & Notes	Date of onset, tick exposure, clinical symptoms, and recent travel history is required on the requisition form. Requires prior approval from CHD and notification to the testing lab. Data suggest that clinical specimens collected 48 hours subsequent to initiation of appropriate antimicrobial treatment may not be positive for Rickettsia due to reduction of Rickettsia organisms and DNA. Whenever possible, specimens collected prior to or within 48 hours of administration of appropriate antimicrobial agents should be used to determine infection with Rickettsia.
Reference Range	Not Detected
Reference Lab	CDC
Reflex testing	CDC