

RSV / FLU PCR Test



Alternate Name:	None
Performing Lab:	New Hanover, Orthopedic Hospital, Pender Memorial Hospital and ED North
Specimen Container:	Nasal Aspirate, Nasal Wash, NP Swab in Viral Transport Media (Red Top Media Tube)
Minimum Volume Required:	N/A
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Yes
Turnaround Time:	1 hour
Special Handling:	Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	Room Temperature: 24 hours Refrigerated: 7 days
Reference Range:	RSV Negative Flu A Negative Flu B Negative
Critical Value:	N/A
CPT Code:	87631
Testing Methodology:	Polymerase Chain Reaction(PCR), DNA amplification test which will detect and amplify viral DNA.
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling. Specimen not collected in a sterile container. Specimen container must not be contaminated on the outside. Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within an hour of collection. Needles must be removed from syringe.

Use of calcium alginate swabs and wood shaft swabs

Other Comments:

Test is only available with FLU test as a combination test. Individual FLU testing is available without RSV testing if needed. Sensitivity of this test is 98% and specificity is 99% so repeat testing is not advised. This is not a test of cure.

Clinical Significance:

Evaluate lower respiratory tract infections in young children. Severe life-threatening infections due to respiratory syncytial virus can occur during the first few years. Acquired immunity is incomplete and reinfection can occur later. This test is recommended for the very young or the very old as immunity in these patients is normally not as strong.