

DATE:	3 February 2025
TO:	Physicians ordering B cell clonality testing by IgH rearrangement
FROM:	Molecular Pathology
RE:	New Test Name for IgH Rearrangement Testing

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Key Message

- The IgH rearrangement test, intended to test for B cell clonality in the context of suspected B cell neoplasms, has seen an unexpected significant increase in inappropriate orders after recent EPIC upgrades. In an attempt to clarify the intended purpose of this test at time of order, the test name is being changed to “B-cell clonality (IgH rearrangement)”. The test remains the same, but it will be differently visible in EPIC.

Background

- IgH rearrangement studies are intended to identify B-cell clones for the purposes of investigating potential B-cell neoplasms. This test is not used for any other general testing purposes and performing it on patients for whom B-cell neoplasms are not suspected may produce results that cause unnecessary downstream testing and concern, as reactive B-cells in the context of infection or other inflammatory conditions may also be interpreted as monoclonal. Thus, this testing should only be ordered to confirm or refute the hypothesis that the patient has a B-cell neoplasm in the context of ambiguous clinical or histologic findings. Recently, a large number of inappropriate IgH rearrangement orders have been received in Molecular Pathology, prompting large-scale order cancellations and increasing cost and risk to the healthcare system. The order will be renamed “B-cell clonality (IgH rearrangement)” to try to decrease the misordering of this test.

How this will impact you

- If you require B-cell clonality evaluation, please order IgH rearrangement studies using the new order name. The test, report, and interpretation will remain the same.

Action Required

- Order “B-cell clonality” testing when IgH rearrangement is required to assess for B-cell neoplasms.

Effective **January 6, 2025**

Questions/Concerns

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