Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: **October 21, 2019**
To: **All Physicians**
From: **Alberta Public Laboratories**
Re: **Implementation of Laboratory Developed *Toxoplasma gondii* PCR in Blood, CSF and Tissues**

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Key Messages:

- Provlab has validated a laboratory developed test (LDT) *Toxoplasma* PCR assay which has been used in testing aqueous/vitreous fluid samples as part of a "chorioretinitis panel".
- Provlab will implement this *Toxoplasma* PCR assay for other clinical samples: CSF, plasma, and selected tissues.
- Interpretation of the results must involve correlation with the clinical presentation and other laboratory results.

Background:

- *Toxoplasma gondii* is a protozoan that may cause encephalitis, retinochoroiditis, and congenital toxoplasmosis, etc.
- Although the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis can be made by serological tests, sometimes the interpretation can be inconclusive.
- PCR has been increasingly recognized as a valuable adjunct for diagnosis of toxoplasmosis.

Actions Required:

- The *Toxoplasma* PCR assay for CSF, plasma, and selected tissues will be performed only after Microbiologist/Virologist-on-call consultation and approval.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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