



Update for Laboratory Testing H1N1 09 (Human Swine Influenza)

SNP's influenza A PCR (INFPCR) assay can detect H1N1 09 (Human Swine Influenza).

When referring a patient for investigation of influenza please include the following on the request form:

Clinical notes

- travel history
- date of return
- date of onset of symptoms

Test request

- influenza test

(do not request MIC/S as this is only applicable to bacterial infections.)

Currently SNP are only performing Influenza A & B on all specimens referred for respiratory viruses due to the increased demand associated with H1N1 09 (Human Swine Influenza). Children under 5 years will also be tested for RSV.

If performing the nasopharyngeal collection during consultation with the patient, please collect one NPS (orange cap flocked swab) and one throat swab (black top swab).

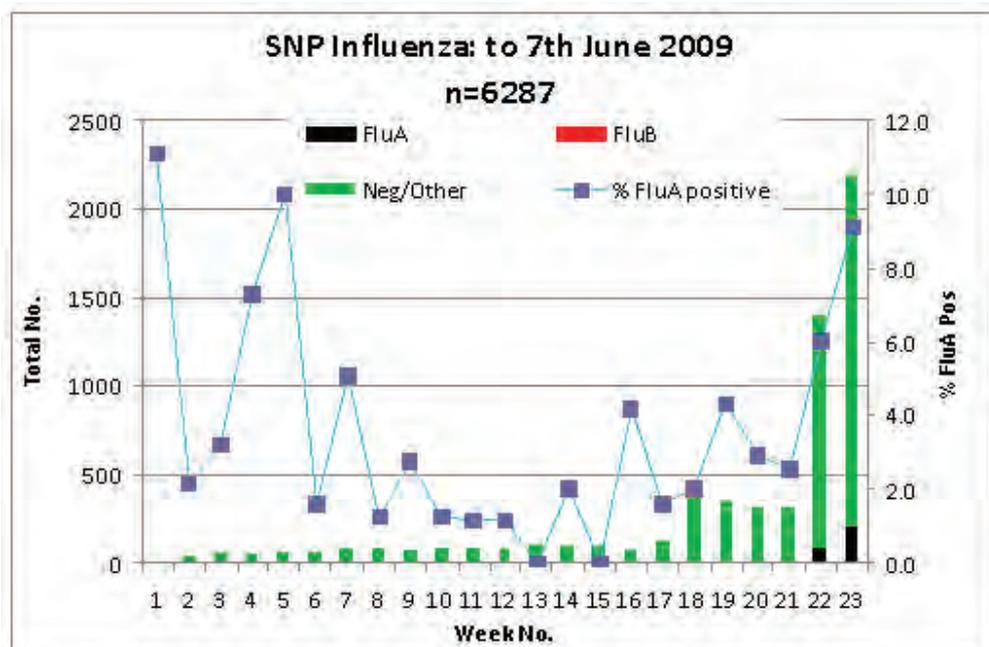
The latest information about H1N1 09 (Human Swine Influenza) is available from www.snp.com.au

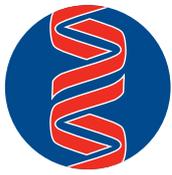
- doctor's bulletin
- collection instructions
- list of collection centres that collect NPS
- useful links to reference websites.

Please contact the Microbiology Laboratory on (07) 3377 8534 to organise testing for any other respiratory virus. We will advise you when routine testing for respiratory viruses resumes.

Results to May 31, 2009 Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology

Over 6000 influenza tests have been performed. 357 patients have tested Influenza A positive. Where typing is available the majority have been seasonal influenza H1 (63%), H3 (23%) and smaller numbers of H1N1 09 Human swine Influenza (14%). As the winter season progresses it is likely that the latter will become the dominant circulating strain. Approximately 9.1% of all samples submitted during week 23 (ending 7th June) were influenza A positive.





Serology tests and clinical history

Interpreting serological results, particularly for respiratory viruses, is helped by the inclusion of clinical information on the patient's request form. The three key things to include are:

- travel history
- date of return
- date of onset of symptoms

Although this is particularly relevant for H1N1 09 (Human Swine Influenza), providing the date of onset of symptoms for all infectious serology investigations is very helpful.

Faecal Occult Blood testing – avoiding re-collections

To ensure accuracy in results, Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) tests can only be performed on a faeces sample that has been inoculated into the FOB collection tube immediately after being passed. FOB tubes are supplied to patients at our collection centres. If you prefer to give these to patients yourself, stocks can be ordered from Doctor's Stores. If a faeces sample is sent to the laboratory in a jar for FOB testing a re-collection will be organised.

SNP billing policy for outpatient tests...

At SNP we bulk bill pension, health care and white and gold DVA card holders (concession patients). This has always been a central plank of our billing policy and continues to be the case today.

With the massive 2009 budget cuts to pathology rebates looming over us, it is inevitable that all pathology practices will change their billing policies. SNP will always inform you personally before any billing change is implemented. Be wary if anyone other than a representative from SNP discusses our billing policy with you – misleading information has been given in the past.

Please contact us for the correct and most up-to-date information.

From June 2009 we will only bulk bill non-concession patients if you hand write 'Bulk Bill' on the request form.

For all non-concession patients (when both the patient and their tests are eligible for a Medicare rebate) we accept the Medicare rebate and up to a maximum out-of-pocket expense of \$80 as full payment for their account. The out of pocket expense is capped at \$80 per day regardless of the number or complexity of tests.

When a patient has tests that are not eligible for a Medicare Rebate, SNP has no alternative than to send an account for these tests to the patient.

We understand that patients can put you in a difficult position if they ask you to intervene when they receive an account from SNP. We encourage you to refer patients to the SNP Patient Service Centre on 1300 732 030 to discuss their account. The centre is staffed by highly trained and empathetic people who understand the intricacies of the pathology items in the MBS.

New collection container for urines...

Often urine samples need to be tested in different areas of the SNP laboratory depending on the investigation. However, as we ideally only ask the patient to collect one sample, sub-sampling is often required. This is time consuming and spills are a safety risk.



Item # 07621

Our new containers incorporate a sampling device that allows the urine to be easily sub-sampled into urine Vacutainer tubes for testing by the investigating laboratory.

There are a number of advantages to using the new system.

From the patient's perspective, nothing has changed. They collect the urine sample as before observing test-dependent recommended procedures, and return the sample to an SNP collection centre or to your surgery. The wider container should be easier for them to use. The sampling device in the lid is covered and has been assessed by the SNP Workplace Health and Safety Committee.

Streamlining the urine process from collection to reporting also involved a review of the microbiology laboratory procedures for culture and sensitivity testing. The advancements of the Vacutainer system allow earlier reporting of negative cultures and gives the scientists time to concentrate on the positive cultures in the knowledge that the negative results are delivered to you in the shortest possible time.

Yellow top containers will continue to be supplied for specimens other than urines.

Supply of the new containers may be ordered on your SNP Doctor's Stores Form available on www.snp.com.au or contact the Doctor Service Centre on 1300 SNPATH (1300 764 284).

Collection Centre updates Brisbane

Marsden - relocation
Shop 22 (a)
Marsden Park Shopping Centre
57 - 77 Chambers Flat Road
Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm
Phone (07) 3200 8555

Regional now open Oakey

Cherry Street Medical Centre
5 Cherry Street
Mon - Fri 8 am - 4 pm
Phone (07) 4691 2014

Southport

Southport Premion Collection Centre
Premion Place, Level 8
cnr High and Queen Streets
Mon - Fri 8 am - 4 pm
Phone (07) 5573 8883

KRAS mutation screening Syzygy April /May 09

We wish to acknowledge Vicki Whitehall from QIMR for allowing SNP use of her scientific literature in our article on KRAS mutation.



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60% less energy used.