



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Memo

To: Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

From: William A. Glover II, Ph.D., D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)
Assistant Laboratory Director for Infectious Diseases

Date: February 14, 2024

Re: Testing method change for detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex* (MTBC) and
Mycobacterium avium/intracellulare complex (MAC)

Effective immediately, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will begin performing a multiplex Real-Time PCR assay for the detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex* (MTBC) and *Mycobacterium avium/intracellulare complex* (MAC). This MTBC/MAC real-time PCR assay replaces the previously discontinued Hologic® AccuProbe® culture identification assay.

The test will be identified as “MTBC/MAC real-time PCR” on patient reports. The Cepheid GeneXpert® MTB/RIF assay will continue to be performed for first time acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear positive cases. The GeneXpert® MTB/RIF assay will now be identified as “MTB/RIF PCR (GeneXpert)” on patient reports.

There are **no changes** to specimen collection procedures. The MTBC/MAC real-time PCR assay is performed on growth from cultured solid media (Middlebrook 7H10 and Lowenstein-Jensen slants) and BD BACTEC™ MGIT™ mycobacterial growth indicator tubes that are between 1-7 days from date of flagged positivity on the MGIT 960 instrument. Additional information about submission criteria and shipping can be found in Appendix A in the [NCSLPH SCOPE: A Guide to Laboratory Services document](#).

For questions, please contact Thomas Lawson, Microbiology Unit Manager at 919-807-8803, or Yvette Vergnetti, Mycobacteriology Laboratory Supervisor at 919-807-8792.