

QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS 4-TUBE TEST

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 16, 2019

QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS 4-TUBE TEST REPLACES QUANTIFERON TB GOLD 3 TUBE

Effective January 16, 2019, Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories (WDL) will be replacing the 3-tube QuantiFERON TB Gold test with the 4-Tube QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus test. The 4-Tube Gold Plus test enables a more comprehensive assessment of cell-mediated immune response to TB infection. While the 3-tube Gold test only examined the immune response of CD4+ T cells, the 4-Tube Gold Plus test examines the immune responses of both CD4+ and CD8+ T cells.

There are two minor differences in specimen collection:

- The addition of a fourth blood collection tube.
- The tubes no longer have to be drawn in a specific order.
- The intended use of the test remains unchanged.

Collection Kit Orders:

- The new 4-Tube Collection Kits will be available beginning December 17, 2018. However, testing by the new method will not occur until January 16, 2019. WDL will begin automatic distribution of the 4-Tube kits during the first two weeks of January.
- If testing is required, prior to 1/16, please request and submit the 3-Tube kit. Please note that the 3-Tube kits will not be accepted beginning 1/16.

Comprehensive specimen collection instructions are included with this memo.

Summary

New Test	Mnemonic	CPT Codes
QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus 4-Tube	QTB PLUS	86480

Old Test	Mnemonic	CPT Codes
QuantiFERON TB	QTFRN TB	86480

For technical questions or additional information, please call:

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Quantiferon-TB Plus Collection Instructions

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS & CAUTIONS BEFORE DRAWING THE PATIENT.

You will notice three changes in the blood collection tubes used in the new test (4-Tube Gold Plus) compared to the old test (3-tube Gold).

- The old test's red tube (TB antigen) has been replaced with two new tubes: green (TB1 antigen) and yellow (TB2 antigen). The new test uses gray (nil) and purple (mitogen) tubes, as before.
- The tube labels have updated formatting.
- The black fill-mark is now thicker and easier to see.

Collection instructions:

- **Before drawing the patient, confirm you are using the 4 QuantiFERON tubes.**
 - Grey Top Tube (NIL)
 - Green Top Tube (TB1 ANTIGEN)
 - Yellow Top Tube (TB2 ANTIGEN)
 - Purple Top Tube (MITOGEN)
 - *Each tube will draw 1-ml of blood.*
 - *Notice the black fill-mark on the lower left side of the label.*
 - *This is the correct fill-level of the blood when the tube is in the upright position.*
 - *The blood may be slightly above or below this mark & still be acceptable.*
 - *Tubes should be between 63-77°F at the time of blood filling.*
- 1. There is no order of draw for the collection. If a "butterfly needle" is used to *collect blood*, a "purge" tube (plain tube, no additives) should be used to ensure the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QTB-Plus blood collection tubes being used.
 - Blood flow may be slow. Hold tube on needle for 2-3 seconds after flow ceases.
 - Once the tube is removed from the needle, look at the black fill-mark on the label to be sure the tube is filled corrected. Check the fill level before shaking.
- 2. **Immediately after filling, shake all 4 tubes ten (10) times just firmly enough to ensure that the inner surfaces of the tubes are coated in blood. Over-vigorous shaking may cause gel disruption and could lead to aberrant results. This is very important.**
- 3. Label all the tubes with patient name, medical record number or date of birth, and collection date and time.
- 4. Keep the tubes at room temperature (do not centrifuge, refrigerate or freeze).
 - Transport to Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories.
 - **Tubes must be received in the lab within 16 hours of collection.**

CAUTIONS:

1. These tubes are for Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus only. They cannot be used for other laboratory testing.
2. Ordinary blood collection tubes with the same color cap cannot be substituted for these special tubes.
3. If using a butterfly needle, draw a purge tube (plain tube, no additives) first to get the air out of the tubing.
4. Standard blood handling precautions apply.