

## **I. Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) by PCR for the rapid identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC)**

- Type of Specimens:**
1. Respiratory specimen (unprocessed)
  2. Sterile Fluids –CSF, pleural fluid, sterile aspirate, etc.  
Blood and urine specimens will **NOT** be tested
  3. Tissues—**NOT** in formalin or embedded

**Acceptable samples:**

1. Unprocessed specimens that are no more than seven (7) days old
2. BOL processed specimens up to three (3) days post-processing

**Availability:** Monday through Friday    **Turnaround Time:** 24 to 48 hours

**BOL Specimen Submission Form:** Mandatory information to be included:

1. Patient Name (Last, First, Middle), address, city, zip code, and county
2. Date of Birth, Sex, Date of Onset, Suspect agent
3. Specimen source and Collection date
4. Laboratory examination requested: **TB PCR**
5. Submitter name, complete address, and contact information including both name and phone and fax number.

**Reporting:** Results are faxed. All positive results will be phoned.

## **II. Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance (MDDR) for the rapid detection of drug resistance in MTBC – test performed at CDC**

**Approval is required for this testing.** The prevalence of multiple drug resistant (MDR) TB in the U.S. is low, approximately 1-2%.

Justifications for MDDR testing request:

1. High risk of rifampin resistance or MDR-TB (e.g., previous TB, foreign born)
2. Known resistance to rifampin (or known contact of)
3. High profile patient (e.g., daycare worker, nurse, inmate)
4. Adverse reaction (e.g., rifampin allergy)
5. GeneXpert<sup>®</sup> Detection of Rifampin mutation
6. Others may be accepted on a case-by-case basis with consultation

- Type of Specimen:**
1. MTBC isolates from solid or liquid media
  2. MTBC PCR positive specimen

**Availability:** Monday through Friday    **Turnaround Time:** 48 to 72 hours

**BOL Specimen Submission Form:** Follow the directions above and write in “**MDDR**” in the Laboratory Examination(s) Requested field. Include the required justification on the form. Call the TB laboratory if any questions: 484-870-6450.

**Reporting:** MDDR results are faxed as a preliminary report. A final report with conventional drug susceptibility results will be faxed in approximately four weeks.