

# Medical Staff Bulletin

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Date: January 15, 2019

## Quantitative BKV/EBV PCR: Implementation of New Assays

As of 21st January, 2019, a new altona AltoStar<sup>®</sup> instrument together with its associated BKV and EBV assays will replace the current altona RealStar BKV and EBV assays offered by the Microbiology Department. This change has been made as a result of the introduction of the new assay by our current supplier, altona Diagnostics Inc. The major differences in assay performance include the following:

1. The lower limit of quantitation for the AltoStar<sup>®</sup> BKV PCR is **2.00E+2 IU/mL** (previously 1.00E+1 IU/mL);
2. The lower limit of quantitation for the AltoStar<sup>®</sup> EBV PCR is **1.50E+3 IU/mL** (previously 6.00E+2 IU/mL);
3. EBV viral load obtained using the altona AltoStar<sup>®</sup> instrument/assay will be on average **0.65log<sub>10</sub>** higher than the value obtained using our current method.

Specimen collection and ordering procedures will remain the same. The name of the assay used to perform BKV and EBV PCR testing will continue to appear on each report so as to avoid any confusion as to which assay was used.

Please share this notice with your team and anyone else who should be aware of this change.

### **For more information, questions, or concerns:**

Please contact the Microbiology Call Centre (416-340-4800 ext. 5227) or the Medical Microbiologist on call through Mount Sinai Hospital locating (416-586-5133).

Virology Lab (416-586-4800 x4182)