

Simplexa™ Bordetella PCR Assay Procedure

PURPOSE

- This procedure provides instructions for preparing samples, setting up the PCR reaction and running the Simplexa™ Bordetella PCR assay for the detection of *B. pertussis* and *B. parapertussis* from nasal and bronchial specimens

POLICY STATEMENT

- PCR testing is performed daily, 0700 –1530
- Alert value:** Call patient’s caregiver with positive results for *B. pertussis* and *B. parapertussis*. Document name of person called, date and time.

ABBREVIATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABC: <u>A</u>nalyzer <u>B</u>efore <u>C</u>omputer BOR: <i>Bordetella</i> BORDP: <i>Bordetella</i> PCR Bp: <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> Bpp: <i>Bordetella parapertussis</i> BSC: BioSafety Cabinet BSL: BioSafety level CBA: <u>C</u>omputer <u>B</u>efore <u>A</u>nalyzer CFU: colony forming unit Ct: crossing threshold F/T: freeze/thaw IC: internal control MM: master mix NA: Nucleic Acid NEGC: negative control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFW: nuclease free water NP: nasopharyngeal swab NW: nasal wash specimen PCR: polymerase chain reaction PCTL: process control POSC: positive control PP: primer – pair PPE: personal protective equipment SEAC: Simplexa extraction and amplification control TE buffer: Tris – EDTA buffer UNAC: Specimen unacceptable, please recollect Area/Room 1: Clean room Area/Room 2: Processing room Area/Room 3: Amplification room |
|---|---|

DOCUMENTATION/RECORDS

- Simplexa BORD run-specific Segment Report
- LIS Incomplete and Completed worksheets
- Daily Maintenance Log

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Standard precautions for infectious agents. Refer to [MB 2.02](#), Biohazard containment
- Use of engineering controls: Refer to [MB 3.01](#) Engineering Controls to Prevent Nucleic Acid Contamination
- General Safety: [MB 2.01](#) Safe Work Practices
- Caution:** PPE including protective eyewear must be worn when working with concentrated Extran

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Equipment	Reagents	Supplies
Room 1: Clean room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laminar-flow hood, Clean rm 1 Freezer, -10 to -30° C Refrigerator, 2 to 8° C Microcentrifuge Nalgene cooling block Vortex Eppendorf Repeater pipette 	TE buffer	Micro tube racks
	Nuclease Free Water (NFW)	2 ml cryovials
	SEAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal control PP Internal control DNA 	Sterile filtered pipette tips for 10 µl, 20 µl, 100 µl, 200 µl, 1000 µl pipettes
	Bp PP	Micro tubes 1.5 ml, RNase / DNase free
	Bpp PP	Nitrile gloves (powder-free)

Equipment	Reagents	Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated set of pipettes: 2 µl, 10 µl, 20 µl, 100 µl, 200 µl, and 1000 µl pipettes 	<i>Bordetella</i> Molecular Control (POSC)	Sharps disposal container
	<i>Bordetella</i> process control (PCTL)	Gripper rack, rm 2
	TA MasterMix	Orange barrier wipes
	Sani-Cloth Bleach wipes	BBL™ CultureSwab™
	70% alcohol	12X75 sterile plastic test tubes
	5% Extran	Sterile Q – Tipped applicator swabs
	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> ATCC 8467	50 ml sterile conical tube
		Eppendorf 5 ml tips
		Serological pipettes, 5 and 10 ml
		Sterile scissors
Room 2: Processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSC, Process rm 2 Refrigerator, 2 to 8° C Freezer, ≥ - 70°C Nalgene cooling block Vortex Micro-centrifuge 		
Room 3: Amplification and detection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison MDX 		
Room: Microbiology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> McFarland densitometer (micro) 		

QUALITY CONTROL

A. Assay Controls

1. A PCTL, POSC and NEGC must be included in each assay run.
2. An IC is incorporated into each reaction mixture.

B. QC Monitors:

Control	Control Monitor
Positive Control (POSC)	Reagent failure and primer-probe integrity
Negative Control (NEGC)	Reagent and/or environmental contamination, cumulative effect
Process Control (PCTL)	Elution and/or lysis failure; reagent failure
Internal Control (IC)	PCR inhibition in specimen, reagent failure or process error

- C. Before reporting patient results, all controls must yield valid results. Refer to MB 6.05, Procedures F and G, Evaluating and Interpreting Results.

PROCEDURE A: Follow the steps in the table below to prepare specimens for testing

Testing Preparation

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc									
Sample Order Room 2	1	Call worksheet BORDP ; use this worksheet for sample identification throughout testing.	MB 1.01 Specimen Management									
	2	Position samples and controls in disc as follows: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sample</th> <th>Position</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Patient samples</td> <td>1 – nn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PCTL</td> <td>3rd to last position</td> </tr> <tr> <td>POSC</td> <td>2nd to last position</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEGC</td> <td>Last position</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sample	Position	Patient samples	1 – nn	PCTL	3 rd to last position	POSC	2 nd to last position	NEGC	Last position
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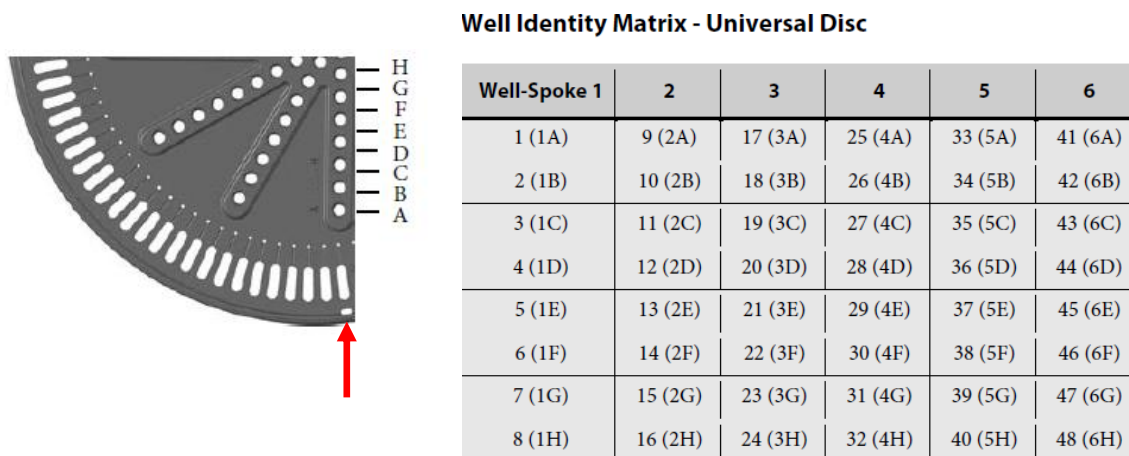
Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc												
Organizing run Room 2	3	Using the BORDP worksheet as a layout, organize patient specimens and labels													
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Process Bronchs, nasal washes/aspirates	5	Number and label a 2.0 ml cryovial for each nasal wash/aspirate and bronch specimen to be tested													
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Change gloves	6	Change gloves when possible contamination is suspected or every 8 samples													
	7	Place numbered tubes (washes and NP swabs) in consecutive order in rack													
	8	Decontaminate hood and scissors; bleach wipe followed by alcohol and water													
	9	Change gloves													

PROCEDURE B: Follow the steps in the table below for setting up the computer

Computer set-up

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc																																																												
Computer Set-up Room 3	1	Set up Liaison MDX; take run specific patient labels into room 3																																																													
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New user	2	To switch users: Select File: Switch Users <i>Note:</i> Users cannot be changed while instrument is running																																																													
Delete or Edit Segment	3	To delete or edit segments, right click one of the wells in the segment																																																													
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	5	Change gloves; move to room 1																																																													

Figure 1: Spoke 1 is identified by the open slot on the outer ring of the disc. The wells are identified from the outer-edge inward A – H. Numerical assignment of the wells is in vertical order.



PROCEDURE C: Follow the steps in the table below for preparing the MM
Master Mix preparation

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc
Thaw/warm reagents Room 1	1	Remove MM components from -20° C freezer/refrigerator; warm to room temperature (approx 15 min) protected from light; use within 1 h	MB 6.04 Refer to MM chart
	2	Gently mix each MM component prior to each use; briefly centrifuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Larger volumes: Vortex 2 – 3 sec, setting 8 (IC DNA and TA MM) ▪ Lower volumes: flick tube 4 – 5 times (IC, Bp and Bpp PP) ▪ Centrifuge: 1 – 2 sec 	
MasterMix Room 1	3	Prepare MM in 1.5 micro-centrifuge tube according to chart volumes	MB 6.03 Storage and Stability
	4	Gently vortex MM; briefly centrifuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vortex setting: 8 ▪ Time: 2 sec ▪ Centrifuge: 1 – 2 sec 	
	5	Return reagents to refrigerator, do not refreeze	
	6	Proceed to PCR set-up	
	7	Remove lab coat; move to room 2	
Room 2	8	Place MM in cooling block until use	
	9	<i>Keep MM protected from light. Use MM within 30 min of preparation</i>	

PROCEDURE D: Follow the steps in the table below for PCR set-up and amplification
PCR set-up and amplification

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc
Vortex Room 2	1	Vortex specimen tubes prior to set-up if they have been sitting for more than 30 min after initial processing	
	2	Remove Universal disc from package and set on disc cold block	

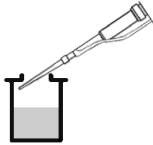
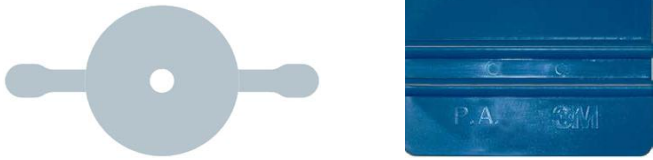
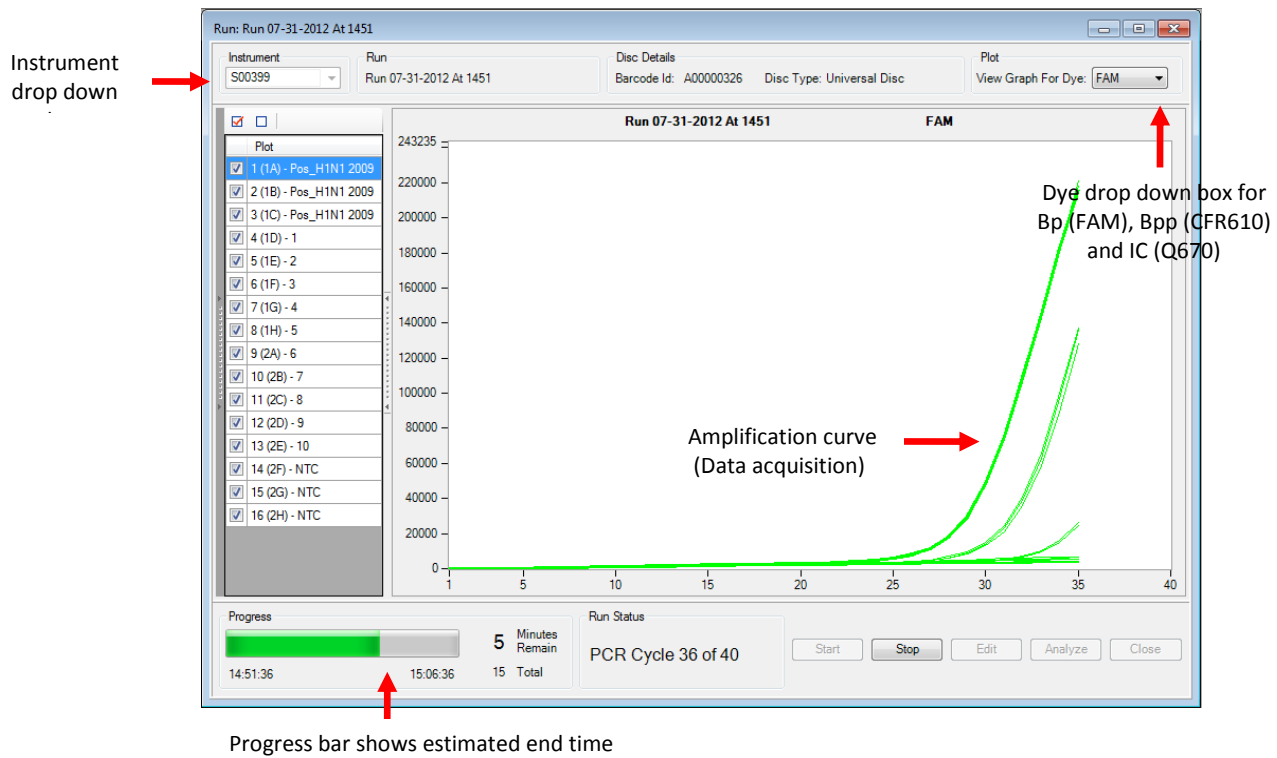
Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc
Load MM Room 2	3	Position spoke 1 over silver plate groove (refer to Fig. 1)	Simplexa Operator Manual
	4	<p>Pipette 7 µl of MM into each well to be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automatic pipettor: hold at slight angle to maintain accuracy ▪ Manual pipetting: hold the pipette at a 30-degree angle inserting the tip under the roof of the well to reduce possible contamination <p><i>Tip</i></p> 	
Load samples	5	<p>Slowly pipette 3 µl of each patient sample and each control into appropriate well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NP swabs: swab elution in TE buffer ▪ Bronch, nasal wash: undiluted ▪ PCTL: undiluted ▪ POSC: undiluted ▪ NEGC: NFW <p><i>Caution:</i> Do not go to second stop to avoid introduction of bubbles and producing aerosols</p>	
Seal disc	6	Apply the cover tape on the disc in horizontal position	
	7	<p>Use the disc applicator to seal the cover tape</p> 	
Change gloves	8	Remove cover tape tabs by gently pulling outwards	
	9	Remove lab coat	
	10	Change gloves; move to room 3	
Room 3 Start Run	11	Place disc into the instrument; close lid	
	12	Click Run button to move to status screen	
	13	Select test instrument from drop down box	
	14	<p>Click Start</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Once the run is started, it cannot be canceled and then restarted using the same disc. Canceling will require a new disc.</p>	
	15	Remove lab coat	
Change gloves	16	Change gloves before leaving room 3	
Run	17	Approximate run time: 1 h	
	18	Run progress can be viewed in the Run Status Window : refer to Fig. 2	
Run completion	19	Remove disc from instrument; <i>check well volumes for pipetting accuracy</i>	
	20	Place in bio-bag	
	21	Discard in red biohazard container	

Figure 2: The graph plots detection progress in Real-Time



PROCEDURE E: Follow the steps in the table below for analysis of data
Analyzing Completed Runs

Activity	Step	Action	Related doc
Analyze Results	1	Click the Analyze button at the bottom of the screen to open the Analysis Window	
Summary	2	Click on the run Details tab to display a summary of the run, target Ct and IC Ct values	

	FAM	CFR610	Q670	JOE
520	1	0	0	0.01
610	0	1	0.003	0
682	0	0.02	1	0
560	0.2	0	0	1

Sample	Sample Type	FLUA(FAM)	H1N1(CFR610)	ARIC(Q670)
1 (1A) - Pos_H1N1...	Pos_H1N1 2009	27.2	28.5	33.3
2 (1B) - Pos_H1N1...	Pos_H1N1 2009	27.2	28.7	31.9
3 (1C) - Pos_H1N1...	Pos_H1N1 2009	27.2	28.4	0.0
4 (1D) - 1	Unknown	0.0	0.0	31.7
5 (1E) - 2	Unknown	0.0	28.4	32.2
6 (1F) - 3	Unknown	0.0	28.7	0.0
7 (1G) - 4	Unknown	33.4	33.6	31.8
8 (1H) - 5	Unknown	33.5	34.1	32.0
9 (2A) - 6	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
10 (2B) - 7	Unknown	29.6	30.2	0.0
11 (2C) - 8	Unknown	29.8	0.0	31.5

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Room 3 Review amplification curves	3	<p>Review IC Ct results and amplification curves for exponential growth and possible inhibition or low target amplification, refer to Figures 3 and 4</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Step</th> <th>Action</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a</td> <td>Select Data tab</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b</td> <td>Click on Print Preview</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c</td> <td>Check Include Graphs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>Scroll through the report , reviewing comments, failures and amplification curves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e</td> <td>A valid curve shows a smooth, exponential increase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f</td> <td>Invalid curve may be linear or a curve with data “spikes” where the curve crosses the threshold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g</td> <td>If curve is valid, the Ct values may be used to interpret the results</td> </tr> <tr> <td>h</td> <td>Confirm results by a second reviewer before releasing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>i</td> <td>Positive results: Confirm name and accession number on primary sample/TE buffer before releasing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>j</td> <td>Select or deselect results to be released</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Step	Action	a	Select Data tab	b	Click on Print Preview	c	Check Include Graphs	d	Scroll through the report , reviewing comments, failures and amplification curves	e	A valid curve shows a smooth, exponential increase	f	Invalid curve may be linear or a curve with data “spikes” where the curve crosses the threshold	g	If curve is valid, the Ct values may be used to interpret the results	h	Confirm results by a second reviewer before releasing	i	Positive results: Confirm name and accession number on primary sample/TE buffer before releasing	j	Select or deselect results to be released	Refer to procedures F, G and H for interpretation of QC and patient results and Exporting results to LIS
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Curve examples	6	<p>Figure 4: Valid and invalid amplification curves</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Valid</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Valid</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Invalid</p> </div> </div>																							

PROCEDURE F: Follow the activities below for evaluating QC acceptability

Evaluating and Interpreting QC Results

Activity	Step	Action	Related doc																				
	1	Check QC to determine if the run is valid before reporting patient results																					
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Problem Log	5	Do not report patient results until problem is resolved																					
	6	Record problem/operator action in the QC and Equipment Failure Log																					

PROCEDURE G: Follow the activities below for evaluating the acceptability of patient results
Evaluating and Interpreting Patient Results

Activity	Step	Action	Related doc								
Patient Results	1	Review amplification curves for each result for exponential growth and data spikes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review “QC statement/Note” on the Segment Report for failures Document operator action for failures on QC log and Segment report 	Refer to Fig. 3, 4								
	2	If the amplification curve is valid, the patient Ct values will be interpreted by LIS when the results are exported									
	3	Patient results will be reported as <i>Positive</i> or <i>Negative</i> for Bp and Bpp									
Internal Control	4	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If</th> <th>Then</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>IC is detected</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative results are valid Positive results are valid </td> </tr> <tr> <td>IC is not detected</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative results are invalid If the Bp or Bpp amplification curves are positive, the IC is not required to be detected ; positive result valid </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid result</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure caused by inhibition: Extract 200 µl sample on the EasyMag (RVP protocol); repeat testing from eluate Reagent or system failure: Repeat testing from original sample If repeat testing remains unresolved, report UNAC </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If	Then	IC is detected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative results are valid Positive results are valid 	IC is not detected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative results are invalid If the Bp or Bpp amplification curves are positive, the IC is not required to be detected ; positive result valid 	Invalid result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure caused by inhibition: Extract 200 µl sample on the EasyMag (RVP protocol); repeat testing from eluate Reagent or system failure: Repeat testing from original sample If repeat testing remains unresolved, report UNAC 	MB 6.07 Reporting and Archiving BORDP Results
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5	Refer to Table 1 for interpretation of results.										

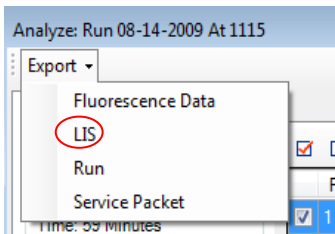
Table 1: Interpretation of Patient Results: Refer to MB 6.07 *Reporting and Archiving Results*

Scenario	Bp Ct value	Bpp Ct value	IC Ct value	Interpretation
1	0	0	20 – 38	Bp and Bpp negative
2	13 – 39	0	0 – 40	Bp positive, Bpp negative
3	0	13 – 39	0 – 40	Bpp positive, Bp negative
4	13 – 39	13 – 39	0 – 40	Bp and Bpp positive
5	0	0	0	Invalid: repeat

PROCEDURE H: Follow the steps in the table below for exporting data to LIS from the analysis screen
Exporting Data to LIS

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc
Select data	1	If all test results were valid upon review, select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> results to be exported on the Data tab, refer to Fig.3	MB 6.07 Reporting and Archiving BORDP Results
	2	<i>Do not</i> send failed patient results or PCTL, POSC and NEGC. Deselect by clicking on individual box(es)	

Activity	Step	Action	Related Doc
Export	3	From the Export drop down box, select LIS and then LIS folder ; click OK	
	4	A message that the run exported successfully will appear. Click OK	




PROCEDURE I: Follow the activities below for repeat testing

Repeat Testing

Activity	Step	Action	Related doc														
Timeframe	1	Perform repeat testing from original specimen aliquot or TE buffer tube	Refer to MB 6.05, Proc. D														
	2	Repeat within 5 day if stored at 2 – 8° C															
	3	Repeat samples may be retested in the same run as new samples															
Vortex	4	Vortex the specimen tubes prior to retesting for 1 min; vortex setting 9															
Type of Failure	5	Review type of failure (not all inclusive)	Simplexa Operator Manual Appendix B: Troubleshooting MB 6.06 Troubleshooting Guide														
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PROCEDURE J: Follow the steps in the table below for Liaison MDX instrument shutdown in room 3
Computer and Instrument Shutdown

Activity	Step	Action
CBA	1	CBA: Shut down computer and then the analyzers when all runs are completed (Computer before analyzer)
	2	Click on the Close button or “X” out of the program
Shutdown menu	3	Click on the Start button (Windows icon)
	4	Next to Restart , click on 
	5	Select Shutdown from the drop down menu
CBA	6	After the computer has shutdown, turn off the analyzers

PROCEDURE K: Follow the steps in the table below for storing test specimens
Storage and Retention of test specimens

Activity	Step	Action
Positive samples	1	For storage of positive samples, label 2 boxes, one <i>Positive Bp</i> and one <i>Positive Bpp</i> including date range
	2	Store positive test samples in -70° C freezer, shelf 3, for at least 1 year
Negative samples	3	Number freezer boxes 1 – 4 for negative samples
	4	Rotate boxes once filled; discard box after rotation is complete starting with box 1

METHOD PERFORMANCE

- Clinical Sensitivity/Specificity ²: 96% / 100%
- Analytical Sensitivity ²: *B. pertussis*:1 CFU/3 µl reaction and *B. parapertussis*: 6 CFU/3 µl reaction

PROFICIENCY TESTING

- CAP *B. pertussis/B.parapertussis* (BOR), 2 shipments per year, 3 challenges each

ALTERNATE METHOD

1. *Bordetella pertussis* and *Bordetella parapertussis*, Molecular detection by PCR
2. Reference Lab: Mayo Medical Laboratories (Test ID: BPRP)
3. Sunquest Order code: BPPCR
4. Logistics:
 - NP Swab in Liquid Stuart’s or Amies Charcoal transport medium
 - Nasal wash/aspirate (0.5 ml) in sterile screw top container, no transport media
 - Transport at RT or refrigerated : Stable up to 7 days
 - Analytic time: 1 day
 - Testing Monday – Friday, Sunday

LIMITATIONS

1. Negative results do not rule out Bp and Bpp.
2. PCR detection of *B. pertussis* and *B. parapertussis* does not distinguish between viable and non-viable organism. Results should be used in conjunction with an evaluation of signs and symptoms of pertussis and available exposure information.
3. This test should not be used as a test for cure for *B. pertussis* and *B. parapertussis*.
4. This test does not distinguish between *B. pertussis* and *B. holmseii*. Some strains of *B. bronchiseptica* also contain the IS481 gene and will cross-react at a lower level.
5. The IS1001 target sequence can occasionally be found in *B. bronchiseptica*^{4,5,6}.
6. False-positive PCR results and pseudo-outbreaks have been associated specimen contamination at the point of collection from some vaccines containing *B. pertussis* DNA^{6,7,8}.
7. False-negative results can occur when low numbers of organism are present. PCR has optimal sensitivity during the first 3 weeks of cough⁹.
8. False negative results may occur if Bp or Bpp has genomic mutations, insertions, deletions or rearrangements.
9. Consider culture back-up during outbreak situations to rule out possible contamination⁹.

REFERENCES

1. Simplexa™ 3M™ Integrated Cycler Studio 5.0 , 3M™ Integrated Cycler Operator Manual Reference 34-8710-8382-9, PI.MOL1101.JD_REV. F for use with user defined assays, Focus Diagnostics 2009-2012, Focus Diagnostics, Inc. Cypress, CA
2. *Bordetella* PCR Clinical Verification and Validation Study performed at Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of MN, 2015
3. Simplexa™ *Bordetella* Universal Direct Circular PI.MOL2700.IVD, Rev. F, 18-July-2012, Focus Diagnostics, Cypress, CA 90630
4. Tilley PA, Kanchana MV, Knight I, Blondeau J, Antonishyn N, Deneer H, Detection of *Bordetella pertussis* in a clinical laboratory by culture, polymerase chain reaction, direct fluorescent antibody staining; accuracy and cost, Diagn Microbiology Infect Dis. 2000 May; 37(1): 17-23.
5. Pittet LF, Emonet S, Francois P, et al, Diagnosis of Whooping cough in Switzerland: Differentiating *Bordetella pertussis* from *Bordetella holmseii* by Polymerase Chain Reaction, PLOS Feb 2014, vol 9, issue 2, e88936 pg 1-5.
6. Michael Loeffelholz, Towards Improved Accuracy of *Bordetella pertussis* Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests, Journ of Clin Micro, Volume 50, Number 7: 2186-2190
7. Mandal, Sema, Tatti KM, Woods-Stout D, Cassidy A, Faulkner E, et al, Pertussis Pseudo-outbreak linked to Specimens Contaminated by *Bordetella pertussis* DNA from Clinic Surfaces, Pediatrics; Volume 129, Number 2, Feb 2012.
8. California Department of Health – February 2011 newsletter: Pertussis: Laboratory Testing.
9. MMWR Weekly August 24, 2007/56(33); 837-842. Outbreaks of Respiratory Illness Mistakenly Attributed to Pertussis--- New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Tennessee, 2004-2006

Historical Record

Version	Written/Revised by:	Effective Date:	Summary of Revisions
1	P. Ackerman	1.23.16	Initial Version
2	P. Ackerman	07.20.16	Reformatted for CMS upload; prev BOR 005
3	P. Ackerman	03.29.17	Instrument name change from Focus Integrated Cycler to DiaSorin Liaison MDX; fixed hyperlinks for SharePoint upload