Herpes Simplex Virus Detection and Speciation (Type 1 or 2) DNA Assay by Real-Time PCR Cenotron Test Code 6001

**Description:** Herpes Simplex viruses 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2) produce a wide variety of diseases, including mucocutaneous, central nervous system, and occasionally visceral organ infections. The clinical manifestations and course of infection depend on the anatomic site, age and immune status of the host, and the antigenic type of the virus. Both subtypes cause genital and oral-facial infections, but genital HSV-2 infections are twice as likely to reactivate as HSV-1.

**Clinical Utility:**
- Rapid, ultrasensitive detection of HSV in dermal/genital lesions
- Detection of central nervous system HSV infections
- Diagnosis of chronic herpetic meningitis
- Diagnosis of disseminated HSV infections in infants
- Permits therapeutic decisions to be made based on virus antigenic type (HSV-1 or HSV-2)

**Technical Information:** HSV DNA is detected with a real-time PCR-based assay developed by Cenotron Diagnostics. PCR is used under license from Roche Molecular Systems. To insure maximum sensitivity, each specimen is monitored throughout the PCR and detection by an internal amplification control. Amplification of viral DNA and internal controls in a sample is detected using real-time fluorescence.

**Assay Days:** Monday through Friday
Turnaround: 24 hours after receipt of sample

**Specimen Requirements:** Dermal/Genital Swabs: Collect dermal/genital lesion specimens using a Dacron culture transport swab. Submit the specimens in viral transport medium (preferably M4 or M5). Send specimen on ice packs.

CSF: Required volume: 500µL of CSF
- Optimal specimen storage and transport is frozen at -20 to -80°C but specimen is stable at 2-8°C for four days.
- Patient's name, I.D. or birthdate, and date of sample acquisition must be marked on tube

**References:**
