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## AVIAN INFLUENZA H7N9 PCR (QUALITATIVE)

**Synonym(s):** H7N9

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<b>Lab Section Category</b>	<b>Molecular Diagnostics - Microbiology</b> Click here to find out more about the <b>write-up</b> ( <a href="#">/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/moleculardiagnosics.aspx</a> ).
<b>Indications</b>	For the detection of avian influenza A/H7N9 in patients with severe respiratory infection and travel to or residence in a country where avian influenza A/H7N9 has been detected. The influenza multiplex PCR test must be ordered with this test.
<b>Specimen Required</b>	<p>a) Throat / nasopharyngeal swabs : Use only Dacron / rayon-tipped dry swabs with plastic shafts or flocked swabs. Send dry in the swab sheath or in a dry sterile screw-capped container. Laryngeal swabs will be rejected.</p> <p>b) Sputum</p> <p>c) In addition, the following specimens from invasive procedures can be taken: - bronchoalveolar lavage - endotracheal tube aspirate. These specimens are to be sent in screw-capped sterile containers without adding viral transport media.</p> <p>Paste red biohazard alert stickers on clinical sample bags for SGH inpatients.</p>
<b>Storage and Transport</b>	<p>Refrigerate sample until transfer to laboratory. Do not freeze. Send sample at 2 - 8°C (with an ice-pack). Sample must reach laboratory within 24 hours after collection.</p> <p>Please contact Molecular Laboratory (63266920) before sending sample.</p>

<b>Method</b>	Reverse-transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (In-house Real-time)
<b>Test Result</b>	Detected, Not detected or Inconclusive
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	Urgent SGH inpatient cases only: 6 hours (requires approval of microbiologist) Routine cases: Next working day  Patient samples for urgent/stat testing must be from patients who meet MOH criteria of a suspect case. These must be ordered by an infectious diseases physician and discussed with a Molecular Laboratory microbiologist.
<b>Day(s) Test Set up</b>	Mondays to Saturdays
<b>Remarks</b>	In addition to standard precautions, strict barrier precautions are required in the collection of respiratory samples from patients suspected to be infected with avian influenza A/H7N9. This includes the use of personal protective equipment like gloves, gowns and apron, safety eyewear and powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) or N95 masks.

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### Change History Notes

- **08 Jul 2013 10:38 AM**  
New test available w.e.f. 09 July 2013

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- **19 May 2014 04:14 PM**  
**Specimen Required: Specimen Required has been last updated on 19/05/14.**

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- **20 May 2014 02:32 PM**  
Turnaround Time: Turnaround Time has been updated w.e.f. 20/05/14.

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- **04 Dec 2015 11:40 AM**  
Storage and Transportation: Storage and Transportation has been last updated on 04/12/15.

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- **16 Jan 2017 10:31 AM**

Specimen Required: Specimen Required has been last updated on 16/01/17

Turnaround Time: Turnaround Time has been last updated on 16/01/17

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