

## TEST STATUS - NEW TEST

Notification Date: 01/06/2025

Effective Date: 01/08/2025

### Test Name: Varicella-Zoster Virus IgG

Test ID: LAB162

Explanation: On the effective date, a manufacturer update to the Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) IgG testing kit will result in changes to the result interpretation. A comparison of the new testing kit and the current testing kit is listed below:

	Current assay	New assay
Testing kit	VZV IgG assay	VZV IgG HT assay
Specimen	Serum	Serum; plasma
Target	VZV IgG antibodies	VZV IgG antibodies
Results	Negative Equivocal Positive	Negative Positive
Unit	Index	S/CO (signal to cutoff)

Useful For: This assay aids in the determination of prior varicella-zoster virus infection.

Methodology: Chemiluminescent immunoassay (CLIA)

Reference Interval: Negative (<1.00 S/CO) in the unvaccinated population.

Critical Value: N/A

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### Specimen Requirements:

Specimen Type:	Serum
Alternate Specimen:	Plasma
Container/Tube:	Gold SST tube (clot activator with gel)
Specimen Preparation:	Separate serum from cells ASAP, and store refrigerated
Specimen Volume:	Minimum 0.5 ml serum
Pediatric Collection:	Two gold micro-containers (Clot activator with gel)
Storage/Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated (2 °C - 8 °C)

### Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Serum or plasma	Room temperature (15 °C - 30 °C)	3 days
Serum or plasma	Refrigerated (2 °C - 8 °C)	7 days

Cautions: IgG-class antibodies to the varicella-zoster virus may be present in serum specimens from individuals who have received blood products within the past several months but have not been immunized or experienced past infection with this virus.

Serum specimens drawn early during the acute phase of infection may be negative for IgG-class antibodies to this virus.

The assay performance in detecting antibodies to VZV in individuals vaccinated with the FDA-licensed VZV vaccine is unknown.

### Reasons for Rejection:

- Specimens other than serum and plasma
- Grossly hemolyzed or lipemic specimens
- Visually contaminated specimens
- Heat-inactivated specimens

Recommendations: Order LAB162 as usual to determine prior varicella-zoster virus infection. DO NOT compare the numeric number result of the new assay to the current assay.

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CPT Code(s): 86787

Days(s) Performed: Monday-Friday

Report Available: 1-3 days

Questions: Please get in touch with Vanderbilt Medical Laboratories Customer Service at 615-875-5227 (5-LABS) or 800-551-5227 or visit our website: [Home | Vanderbilt Medical Laboratories \(vumc.org\)](#)