

West Nile/St. Louis Encephalitis virus IgM Duplex MIA	
Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of IgM antibodies to West Nile virus (WNV) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) virus in human serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
Test Use	As an aid in the laboratory diagnosis of WNV or SLE virus infection in persons with symptoms of febrile illness and evidence of acute neurologic disease.
Test Department	Virology/Serology Phone (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Microsphere-based immunoassay (MIA)
Availability	Monday-Friday
Specimen Requirements	Serum (serum separator tube, SST) or CSF
Collection kit/container	Collection kits can be obtained by calling the outfit room, (860) 920-6674 or (860) 920-6675, Monday- Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Requests may also be submitted via e-mail to dph.outfitroom@ct.gov
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture for serum, allow SST specimens to clot completely before centrifugation. Collect and submit CSF in sterile container.
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8°C prior to testing. If there is a delay expected, store serum specimens (only if poured off clot) at -20°C or lower until delivered to the laboratory. Transport with an ice pack coolant. Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen; Improper specimen type; Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit; Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above.
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (indicate WNV/SLE IgM antibody)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	Results are not intended to be used as the sole basis for diagnosis, treatment, or other patient management decisions. They should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical observations, patient history, epidemiological information, and other laboratory evidence. Assay performance has only been established with the specimen types indicated. Other specimen types are not acceptable for use with this assay.
Additional Comments	In addition to other more common causes of encephalitis and aseptic meningitis (e.g. herpes simplex virus and enteroviruses), other arboviruses (e.g., La Crosse, St. Louis encephalitis, Eastern equine encephalitis, and Powassan viruses) should also be considered in the differential etiology of suspected WNV illness. IgM antibody to SLE is considered presumptively positive and will be forwarded to CDC for PRNT confirmatory testing

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