

TEST CHANGE

Varicella-Zoster Virus DFA with Reflex to Varicella-Zoster Virus Culture

0060282, VZVFAC

Specimen Requirements:

Patient Preparation:	Collect vesicle specimen during first three days of rash.
Collect:	Vesicle fluid or swab, tissue, or skin scrapings. Swab should be rolled in base of fresh vesicle to obtain cells.
Specimen Preparation:	Immediately transfer specimen to viral transport media (ARUP Supply #12884) and refrigerate (extremely temperature sensitive). Available online through eSupply using ARUP Connect(TM) or contact ARUP Client Services at (800) 522-2787.
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated.
Unacceptable Conditions:	Bone marrow, CSF, or whole blood. Calcium alginate, eSwab, dry or wood swabs.
Remarks:	Specimen source preferred.
Stability:	Ambient: Unacceptable; Refrigerated: 48 hours; Frozen: Unacceptable

Methodology: [Immunofluorescent Direct Fluorescent Antibody \(DFA\)](#) Stain / Cell Culture

Note: If DFA is negative or inadequate, then a VZV culture will be added. Additional charges apply.

Sensitivity of DFA methodology is dependent upon adequacy of the specimen. If specimen contains fewer than 20 cells, then the DFA result will be reported as "inadequate."

CPT Codes: 87290; if reflexed, add 87252; 87254

New York DOH Approval Status: This test is New York DOH approved.

Interpretive Data:

Approximately 20% of samples submitted for VZV are positive for herpes simplex virus. Testing for herpes simplex virus is NOT included in this test.

Reference Interval:

<u>Test Number</u>	<u>Components</u>	<u>Reference Interval</u>
	Varicella-Zoster Virus, DFA	Negative

[Negative](#)

HOTLINE NOTE: There is a component change associated with this test. One or more components have been added or removed. Refer to the Hotline Test Mix for interface build information.



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and its Department of Pathology*

Effective Date: **January 20, 2026**