

Infection Control and Prevention

COVID-19 PCR Testing for Patients through Ascend

Application:

Northwest Kidney Centers will provide COVID-19 PCR testing for all patients with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, exposure to COVID-19, and prior to vascular surgery appointments in accordance with their vascular surgery facility's requirements (**see Appendix A**).

Policy:

It is the policy of Northwest Kidney Centers to provide COVID-19 PCR testing for patients with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, exposure to COVID-19, and prior to vascular surgery appointments in accordance with their vascular surgery facility's requirements through Ascend laboratories. This test is for initial diagnosis of COVID-19 or screening prior to vascular surgery and is *not* to be used to retest patients already diagnosed with COVID-19.

Purpose:

To identify SARS-CoV-2 infection in symptomatic, exposed patients and prior to vascular surgeries and subsequently guide clinical decisions on when to isolate and treat patients in Modified Droplet Contact Precautions.

Procedure:

Screen all patients for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (**see Appendix A**). If a patient screens positive for one or more signs and symptoms, place the patient in Modified Droplet Contact Precautions (MDCP), place a COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 PCR order in Ascend using ICD-10 code Z20.822 and print the labels (**see Appendix B**). If the patient's vascular surgery facility requires a COVID-19 PCR test prior to surgery, perform the test but do not put the patient in MDCP. Perform an anterior nares swab by placing the swab $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch into the left nostril and rotate for 15 to 30 seconds. Remove the swab and repeat steps in the right nostril. Place the swab into the transport media and ensure the Ascend label is placed on the transport media tube (**see Appendix C**). Place the transport media tube in the refrigerator with the

other Ascend labs for courier pick up. Nurse to inform patient of test results when available (generally in 24-48 hours). If testing is performed prior to vascular surgery, unit coordinator or appropriate delegate will send test results to the vascular surgery facility prior to vascular surgery.

(Infection Control and Prevention)/(COVID-19 PCR Testing for Patients Through Ascend)

Email COVID.Tracking@nwkidney.org with

- (1) the patient's information,
- (2) symptom start date,
- (3) symptoms, and
- (4) the date you collected a COVID-19 PCR test through Ascend.

Appendix A:

COVID-19 Signs, Symptoms and Pre-Vascular Surgery Testing

- New cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- New shortness of breath
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- GI tract issues
- Has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Exposure is defined as 15 minutes or more of an unmasked encounter. Place patient in Modified Droplet Contact Precautions immediately and test patient on day 5 after exposure (count day of exposure as day 0).
- Prior to vascular surgery appointments in accordance with their vascular surgery facility's requirements.

Appendix B:

Add New Lab Test X

Test* COVID X 

4 components are included:

- COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 Ab, IgG
- COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 Ab, Total w/Reflex IgG
- COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 PCR** Select 

ICD* Z20.822 - Contact with and (suspected) X ESRD Related* Yes No

Specimen Source* Anterior Nares Select 

Start Date* 12/22/2021 End Date mm/dd/yyyy

Schedule* One Time Only

Comments

Ordering Nephrologist* Doctor, Tester ▼ Order Date* 12/22/2021

Save Cancel

Fill in the following questions.

COVID Questionnaire

First test?*

Healthcare worker?*

Displaying symptoms as defined by CDC?*

If yes, provide date of symptom onset.* mm/dd/yyyy

Hospitalized?* No

ICU?* No

Resident in shared housing (including nursing homes, group homes, homeless shelters or other congregate care facilities)?*

Pregnant?*

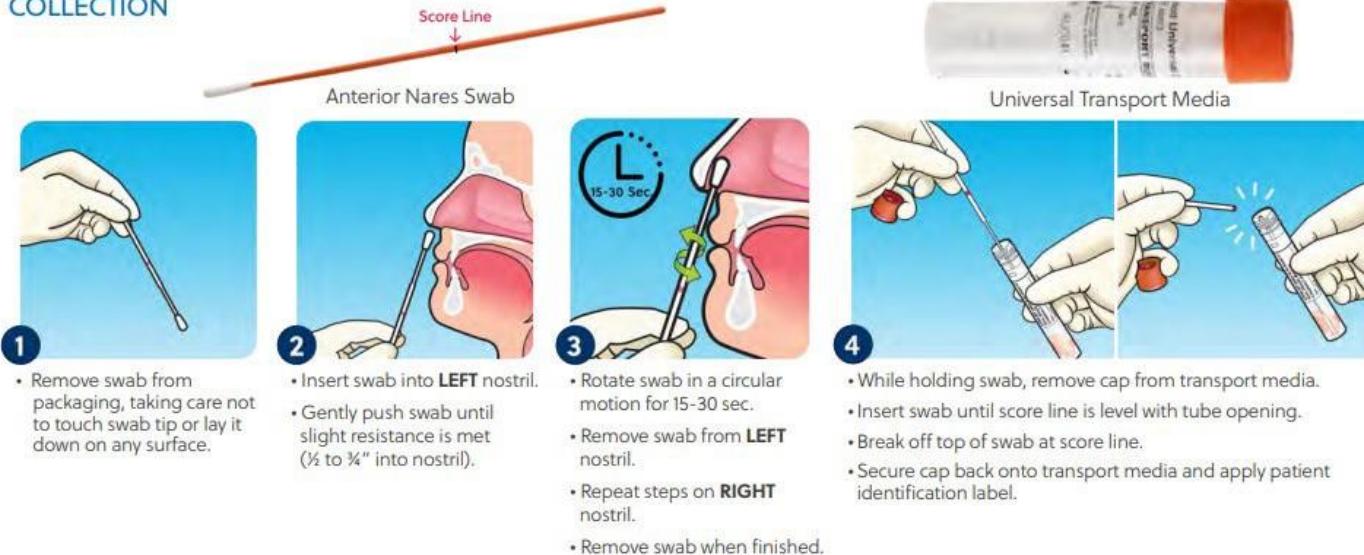
Save **Cancel**

Appendix C:



INSTRUCTIONS: COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 PCR TESTING

COLLECTION



LABELING



SHIPPING

- Package **one patient per bag** only.
- Ship in a separate biohazard bag with refrigerated (2-8° C) Ascend specimens.
- For clinics who utilize a local courier, place with your refrigerated Ascend specimens for pickup.
- For clinics who utilize Ascend shipping boxes, ship with your refrigerated Ascend specimens, and place a UN3373 sticker on the Ascend specimen shipping box.
- Due to shortened stability, do not collect on Saturdays.

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at 800.800.5655, Option 1.