DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 16-16-CLIA

DATE: **March 25, 2016**

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Guidance for the Deployment of the Emergency Use Approval (EUA) Zika Virus Tests

Memorandum Summary

- **Deployment of the EUA Zika Virus Tests**: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing guidance regarding the deployment of the EUA Zika Virus Tests, approved by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), to State and local Public Health Laboratories (PHLs) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- **The Tests**: Two Zika virus tests with corresponding protocols have been developed by the CDC for use by State PHLs and have received EUA by the FDA.
- **Surveyor Guidance:** If test kits are noted during surveys, Regional Offices (ROs) must confirm that the Zika Immunoglobulin M (IgM) Antibody Capture Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Zika MAC-ELISA) and/or the Trioplex Real Time RT-PCR (rRT-PCR) Assay was verified by each laboratory per the CDC protocol, and that corresponding CLIA policies and procedures are in place to ensure readiness and compliance in the event of an outbreak.
- **CDC Directions to State PHLs:** Upon receipt of the Zika virus test system and corresponding instructions and information, State PHLs will verify the developed test specifications in their laboratory per the CDCs guidance.

Background

As of February 20, 2016, active Zika virus transmission has occurred in 29 countries and territories in the Americas. At this time, there are no FDA approved/cleared tests available that can detect Zika virus in clinical specimens in the United States. Therefore, CDC has developed two specific tests to detect the evidence of Zika virus infections in humans.

The first test released by the CDC is the Zika MAC-ELISA, which received an EUA from the FDA and was deployed February 26, 2016. The Zika virus MAC-ELISA detects antibodies in serum and CSF. The second test released by the CDC is the Trioplex Real time RT-PCR, which received EUA from the FDA on March 17 and was deployed on March 21, 2016, which detects

Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viral RNA. The rRT-PCR detects Zika RNA in serum, CSF, urine and amniotic fluid.

CMS is coordinating efforts with the CDC on test method specification establishment protocols, developed and tested by CDC, for subsequent verification on site at each of the PHLs. The CDC MAC ELISA protocol utilizes the 2016 Zika IgM Verification Panel, which includes serum specimens collected from patients with Zika virus infection as well as negative serum specimens. The panel is designed for verification of the CDC Zika MAC-ELISA. The CDC Trioplex rRT-PCR test utilizes the CDC Trioplex Verification Panel, which includes a challenge panel of individual inactivated viral preparations for dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus. The verification panels are the same. Two sets are given such that laboratories have materials to train and test proficiency. CDC is only expecting one set of results from each lab. We encourage laboratories to further evaluate the test performance should more control or patient materials become available, or if the test usage increases.

For more information about the Zika virus and its EUA test, please visit the FDA web site at: http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm#zika

For more information about the Zika virus, please visit the CDC website at: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/

Guidance for RO Surveyors

Scope: This memo applies only to State and local PHLs.

Testing Kits: There are two CDC test kits discussed under this policy letter.

1) Zika Immunoglobulin M (IgM) Antibody Capture Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (Zika MAC-ELISA); and,
2) Trioplex rRT-PCR Assay

Surveys: To facilitate PHL preparedness for a possible Zika outbreak, surveyors must confirm that each PHL has followed the CDC's test protocols and verification procedures.

Data System: Use standard CLIA data entry protocols for survey kits.

Contact: Should you have any questions about the information in this memo, please contact, Karen Dyer at Karen.dyer@cms.hhs.gov or Regina Van Brakle at Regina.VanBrakle@cms.hhs.gov

Effective Date: Immediately. This policy should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum. The contents of this letter supports activities or actions to improve patient or resident safety and increase quality and reliability of care for better outcomes.

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CMS approved accrediting organizations
CLIA Regional Office Consultants