Dear Physicians and Staff:

As COVID-19 testing availability has increased, the IDSA (Infectious Disease Society of America) has recommended testing for asymptomatic immunosuppressed patients. This change is meant to decrease risk in active chemotherapy patients receiving infusion. However, due to the proximity of the patients to each other in the infusion center, it make sense to require testing for all adult patients receiving infusion (even non-oncologic patients).

Starting June 1st, 2020 all infusion patients will require COVID-19 testing 72 hours prior to treatment. Treatment will proceed when a negative test result has been verified. We understand there is variable frequency of treatment as well as lack of guidance from the major societies in regards to frequency of testing. The guideline for timing the test below has built-in "cushion-time" to allow our staff to verify results the day prior in order to avoid unnecessary delay in infusion.

- Patients undergoing Q 3 week treatments should be tested every 3 weeks.
- All other patients (Q 1 week, Q 2 week, or Q 4 weeks and beyond) needs to be tested in the preceding 30 days.
- Timing of Testing:

Monday Infusion-> Wednesday Testing

Tuesday Infusion-> Friday Testing

Wednesday Infusion-> Saturday Testing

Thursday Infusion-> Monday Testing

Friday Infusion-> Tuesday Testing

- Infusion nurses will enter orders for physicians to co-sign (under Ambulatory Covid Testing). This should be nasopharyngeal testing to be sent to Public Health (Not VCMC). Patients can be tested at AFMC Urgent Care, or county urgent care sites.
- Infusion Nursing to verify testing results one day prior to treatment
- If a patient tests positive, please follow the ambulatory protocol on the medical staff website (http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services). Physician to notify patient, complete a CMR form to notify public health. Patient needs to be notified and self quarantine for 10 days AND exhibit no symptoms prior to re-admittance to the infusion center. We are currently not requiring two negative tests 24 hours apart per discussion with Ambulatory Care.
- Exceptions to testing or increased frequency of testing to be made on a case by case basis by treating physician.

Sincerely,

Isabella Chen, MD

How to Order Outpatient COVID Testing:

