

☒ NEW TEST ☐ TEST CHANGE

NOTIFICATION DATE: 05/23/2023

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/24/2023

Joint PCR Panel (Joint PCR)

On the effective date, Northwell Health Laboratories will now perform the Joint PCR Panel test which is intended to aid in the diagnosis of septic joints or bacterial arthritis. This test is used for the identification of potentially pathogenic aerobic and anaerobic organisms, but does not include testing for *Cutibacterium acnes* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. Thus, this test is not a standalone test and should always be performed in conjunction with the Culture, Joint Fluid (C JOINT) test.

The following joint/synovial sources are acceptable for the Joint PCR Panel test: Knee, Shoulder, Hip, Wrist, Elbow, Ankle, Finger, Toe, Prosthetic hip, Prosthetic knee, Prosthetic shoulder.

Specimens submitted as swabs will not be performed by the Joint PCR Panel test.

Note: For a complete list of organisms included in the Joint Fluid PCR Panel test, see the Northwell Health Laboratory online test directory at <https://labs.northwell.edu>.

Test Requirement/Parameters	New
Method	Multiplex PCR
Specimen Requirements	Synovial Fluid
Submission Container/Tube	Sterile Cup
Specimen Volume/Minimum Volume	0.5 mL
Collection Instructions	Collect synovial fluid aseptically and transfer to sterile cup.
Specimen Stability	Refrigerated 2-8 °C for up to 72h
Reference Range	Not Detected
Computer Interface Code	PDM #237266, PDM #227066
Test Order	<div>Cerner</div> <div>SCM clients</div> <div>Allscripts/AEHR clients</div> <div> Joint PCR Joint PCR Panel with Culture Joint PCR Panel and C JOINT* </div>

*If the Culture, Joint Fluid (C JOINT) test is not ordered then a reflex to C JOINT will be added to the Joint PCR Panel.

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (800) 472-5757.

