January 9, 2013

To: Chiefs of Service, Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nurses and Other Concerned Personnel

From: Barbara Haller, MD, PhD  Eberhard Fiebig, MD
Division Chief, Microbiology  Director, Clinical Laboratory

Re: Restrictions on Rapid Influenza Testing (Influenza A and B by PCR)

1. Due to increased demand nationwide for influenza testing and a shortage of influenza test kits from the manufacturer, the SFGH Clinical Laboratory has only an extremely limited supply of influenza test kits available.

2. Beginning immediately,
   - **Only order influenza testing on patients who have an indication for treatment with Tamiflu (oseltamivir).**
   - **Restrict testing to patients who are already hospitalized or patients who will be admitted.**
   - **For outpatients who have special indications for testing or treatment for influenza, please contact ID Pharmacy (443-4379) to discuss the patient prior to ordering an influenza test.**
   - **Viral culture is still available for respiratory specimens as a send-out test with results reported in 2-6 days.**

3. Contact Dr. Barbara Haller (807-6388) or Marguerite Roemer (206-8576) with questions or concerns.