

## Changes to Quantiferon TB Testing

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

The manufacturer of the Quantiferon Tuberculosis assay, Qiagen, has ceased supply of the current QuantiFERON-TB Gold assay and released a next generation version, the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) assay.

As stated by the manufacturer, QFT-Plus is an improved version of the current QFT-Gold test. It uses the same principle, test procedures and technology but has been optimised with an additional tuberculosis-specific antigen tube in order to elicit both a CD8+ and CD4+ T-cell response, to enable a more accurate assessment of cell mediated immune response to TB infection.

The major impact for SydPath clients will be a change from the current three dedicated collection tube format to four dedicated collection tubes. Please note the tubes cannot be used interchangeably, the new four tube collection set for the QFT-Plus test must replace the current three tube collection set.

From **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017**, all requests for Quantiferon TB testing must be collected in the new four tube sets. Testing by the old three tube method will cease from this date. Collection sites are advised to source stock of the new four tube sets prior to this transition date. Updated collection instructions will be distributed with the new set of collection tubes though the collection procedure remains unchanged.

For enquiries regarding the supply of new collection tubes, please contact Patricia Bassil on (02) 8382 9242.

For all other enquiries regarding the changes to QFT TB testing please contact Alison Barry, Scientific Head of Immunology and Serology on (02) 8382 9175.