**Tick-Borne Ehrlichiosis Panel by rPCR**

**Ehrlichiosis**
- **Main Region:** Southeastern and South-Central U.S.
- **Transmission:** Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)
- **Peak Season:** May - September
- **Diagnosis:** Clinical suspicion (see signs and symptoms below) of ehrlichiosis is sufficient to begin treatment. During the acute phase (first week) of illness, a sample of whole blood should be tested by **PCR**. Diagnostic tests based on the detection of antibodies will frequently be negative in the first 7-10 days of illness.
- **Treatment:** **Doxycycline**
  - Adults: 100 mg twice per day
  - Children: 2.2 mg/kg per dose twice per day

**Signs and Symptoms**
*Note:* usually within 1-2 weeks of tick bite
- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Malaise
- Muscle pain
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Confusion
- Conjunctival injection (red eye)
- Rash (in up to 60% of children, less than 30% of adults)

**Test Details**
- **Test Code:** #8425
- **PCR Targets:**
  - Anaplasma phagocytophilum
  - Ehrlichia chaffeensis
  - Ehrlichia ewingii/canis
  - Ehrlichia muris-like
- **Specimen:** 0.5 mL Whole Blood (EDTA/ACD), CSF
- **Turnaround Time:** Within 24 hours

**Ehrlichiosis Incidence, 2010**

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