



Why Wait for AFB Culture Results?

	TAT	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
AFB Smear	24 Hours						
Rapid and inexpensive, but limited by poor sensitivity, and does not identify TB							
AFB Culture	3-6 Weeks	Why wait for culture?					
Still required for drug-susceptibility testing and genotyping							
TB PCR (NAA)	24-48 Hours						
Provides identification of TB within 48 hours at 95% sensitivity							

NAA testing should be performed on at least 1 respiratory specimen from each patient who has signs and symptoms of pulmonary TB

-- (Updated Guidelines from the CDC, Jan. 2009)

Utilization of NAA testing leads to:

- Earlier treatment initiation
- Improved patient outcomes
- Increased opportunities to interrupt transmission
- More effective public health interventions

Order Genetic Assays Test #250, Mycobacteria DNA by PCR

Qualitative Results provided for:

- *M. tuberculosis* (complex)
- *M. avium* (species)
- *M. intracellulare* (species)
- **M. genus** (Note: For identification of atypical mycobacteria species, order DNA Sequencing)

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