

What Our Customers Say

ePlex® Blood Culture Identification (BCID) and Respiratory Pathogen Panels (RP2): Reducing Unnecessary Antibiotic Use in Patients with Respiratory Infections and Bloodstream Infections (BSI)

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Mountain West Medical Center, Utah

- 44 bed hospital, 30 minutes from Salt Lake City
- Affiliate of the University of Utah Healthcare System
- Recognized as one of the nation's Top Performers on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission

The Urgent Need

Until recently, we only had one molecular platform in our lab. We strive to keep up with new technology and equipment while also making sure new tests are economical to improve our ability to keep patients on site for treatment rather than sending them to the affiliate hospital.

The Solution

Mountain West Medical Center started using GenMark's ePlex SARS-CoV-2 Test early in the pandemic, before switching to the ePlex RP2 Panel. They also adopted the ePlex BCID Panels. The RP2 and BCID Panels are comprehensive syndromic panels for the detection of pathogens causing respiratory infections (including COVID-19, flu, and the common cold) and BSI/Sepsis, respectively. The trio of BCID Panels also include the 10 most common resistance genes to further aid in rapid treatment decisions.



Rashelle Giles
Laboratory Administrative
Director

What drove you to choose the ePlex RP2 Panel?

The convenience of having a single swab sample collection compared to our previous method, where 3 different swab samples would be coming to the lab for the detection of flu, RSV and COVID-19, was much appreciated by the patients and ED doctors alike. It is nice to have comprehensive pathogen coverage on the panel. The ePlex RP2 Panel did a wonderful job of being able to tell rhinovirus apart from other viruses which is critical in the current climate. We have been able to use it on symptomatic staff members and get them back to work upon confirmation of rhinovirus.



What drove you to choose the ePlex BCID Panels?

In terms of the BCID Panels, early identification, and rapid rule-out of blood culture contamination has been a game changer for our hospital. Previously, it could take over 48 hours from the time the bottle goes positive to the time you have an ID and sensitivity. Having the ID and resistance genes in 2 hours has really been transformational for our lab.

What are the benefits of ePlex BCID Panels?

The biggest benefit of using BCID Panels in our hospital is that it overcomes the problems we have with limited microbiology lab technicians. Timing is everything when it comes to BCID. Being able to have someone in the lab at the time the bottle goes positive, set it up, and result it out gives us the flexibility to deliver rapid response for patient care any time. Before bringing on the ePlex BCID Panels, changing the treatment was a long process. We used to call our microbiology lab techs over the weekends, on their day off to come in and look at the plates. With the ePlex BCID Panels we do not have to worry about that anymore.

Can you provide an example of how the ePlex BCID Panels helped you better manage care?

Recently, we were concerned about potentially having to remove or change out a patient's line but based on the ePlex BCID-GP Panel result I was able to give the clinician peace of mind as *Staph epidermidis* was detected, which is likely a contaminant. It made me feel so good to save the patient from having his line changed out.

How has implementing the ePlex RP2 Panel impacted patient care?

The RP2 Panel definitely impacted patient care in the ED. Being able to have just one swab sample collection, especially for our youngest patients and being able to get rapid results, allows us to get patients in and out of the ED in about two hours. Being able to get results the same day rather than having to send them out allows doctors to have more information at their fingertips to appropriately diagnose patients.

Why did you choose the ePlex Panels over other molecular syndromic tests?

Most importantly, the ePlex workflow is so easy-to-use. It is a single pipette step to set up each assay and it is great to have the technology available without needing a lot of technical expertise to operate it. One thing I really like about ePlex BCID Panels is that they have different cartridges based on the Gram Stain results, unlike some other platforms that have a single BCID panel. This helps in expanding the coverage of organisms detected by the panels.

How have the ePlex Panels helped you advance antimicrobial stewardship?

With the RP2 Panel, being able to rapidly and accurately identify the pathogen causing symptoms helps us clearly say if it is a virus causing the symptoms, so we don't move forward with antibiotics unnecessarily.

Similarly, for BCID, many patients, upon being diagnosed as septic, got broad-spectrum antibiotics. With the ePlex BCID Panels, we can rapidly identify the pathogen and resistance genes, so we can be targeted in our therapy and potentially cut 2 days off high-level broad-spectrum antibiotics.

What has your experience been working with GenMark?

It has been a wonderful experience working with GenMark, the team is very responsive. We appreciate the written responses we get from the technical support team on any issues that we run into. Getting a quick response and acknowledgment from the Technical Support Team is valuable from the management perspective.

For more information, visit [GenMarkDX.com](https://www.genmarkdx.com)



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