

January 15, 2010

RE: Development of rapid test for detection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm)

To whom it may concern:

We have successfully developed immunochromato rapid test for detection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm) by co-development with International Medical Center of Japan.

Since infection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm) became pandemic after breaking out among Mexico or North America, it has become a social issue with increase of infected people in Japan as well.

However, there have been no commercially available rapid test for detection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm), although the differential diagnosis by RT-PCR have been available in public health centers or institutes of public health. Therefore, the development of rapid test for detection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm) has been a urgent issue. In COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, CABINET OFFICE which was held on May 21, 2009, research for countermeasure against novel Influenza (H1N1pdm) was designated as a pressing issue, based on the program with agile promotion of key policy issues by SPECIAL COORDINATION FUNDS FOR PROMOTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. Taking this opportunity, we launched the urgent co-development with International Medical Center of Japan.

Regarding the test kit which is simple, and rapid (Interpretation of test results at 10~15 minutes by immunochromatographic assay after dropping specimen) and has a good specificity (The same characteristics as the rapid test kit used for detection of seasonal Influenza A), we are very confident that it contributes to not only early treatment, but also the prevention from infection to dialysis patients, diabetes, and children and pregnant women who are concerned for becoming severe and also foreknowledge and countermeasure for outbreak of group infection in concern about infection spread of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm). We are now working on clinical trials in several medical institutions, including Toyama Hospital, International Medical Center of Japan for getting early manufacture approval from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

We believe that we can contribute to medical treatment by differential diagnosis for infection of novel Influenza A (H1N1pdm) in near future.

Sincerely Yours,

Mizuho Medy Co.,Ltd.