Indication for Testing:

- Will diagnostic test results influence clinical management of this patient? (i.e., treatment, isolation precautions, hospitalization)

During peak periods of influenza, signs and symptoms may be sufficient for an influenza diagnosis and treatment decisions. Consult TriCore Infectious Disease Report (www.tricore.org/infectious_disease_report)

Lab Testing:

- Negative
  - Will the addition of PCR diagnostic test results influence clinical management of this patient? (i.e., treatment, isolation precautions, hospitalization)

  - No
    - Respiratory virus testing probably not indicated. Symptomatic therapy recommended.

  - Yes
    - Respiratory virus testing probably indicated. Symptomatic therapy recommended.

- Positive
  - 1. Perform rapid influenza test (if available) OR
  - 2. Flu A/B RSV PCR testing (FLURSV)

Treatment Recommendations:

- Influenza virus infection likely.
- Initiate antiviral therapy if clinically indicated. Antiviral treatments are only effective when administered within 48 hours of onset of symptoms or potentially in hospitalized patients with severe influenza.
- Symptomatic therapy recommended otherwise.

Differential Diagnosis:

- Symptoms may be characteristic of acute bacterial pharyngitis. For testing recommendations, review the following algorithm:
  - Adult Patient with Suspected Bacterial Pharyngitis

Key: turn-around-time (TAT)

Note: Rapid antigen tests for influenza have the best diagnostic performance when used to test during an acute respiratory outbreak and during influenza season on patients presenting with influenza-like illness.

References: