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**TriCore Reference Laboratories is the Only Lab in the Country Offering Comprehensive Screening for *BCR-ABL1*-like B-ALL**

***For Immediate Release – November 20, 2018 (Albuquerque, New Mexico****) –* TriCore Reference Laboratories is the first clinical lab in the nation to offer a comprehensive screening assay and diagnostic algorithm for the identification of *BCR-ABL1*-like B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma (B-ALL) (or “Ph-like” ALL) performed in the Molecular Diagnostics and Cytogenetic departments. UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center developed the screening assay for use in clinical trials, and collaborated with TriCore in this clinical launch of the assay.

*BCR-ABL1-*like B lymphoblastic leukemia is a heterogeneous group of diseases associated with poor prognosis. However, many of the underlying genetic changes are potentially sensitive to treatment with targeted therapy. Early identification and appropriate treatment can result in improved patient outcomes. Because there is not a single, discreet cytogenetic or molecular abnormality that defines *BCR-ABL1*-like B-ALL, extensive and complex laboratory testing has been required to identify patients with this disease.

According to Devon Chabot-Richards, MD, Medical Director of Molecular Diagnostics for TriCore, “TriCore’s assay is the first commercially available screen for this complex entity. The Low Density Array card (LDA) coupled with TriCore’s algorithm offer a simple and comprehensive way to identify patients with *BCR-ABL1*-like B-ALL. In addition, our world-class team of hematopathologists and molecular pathologists offer detailed interpretation and guidance and ensure appropriate follow-up testing is performed. “

For more information, please visit our website http://www.tricore.org/BCR\_ABL1\_like\_ALL.

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*TriCore Reference Laboratories is an independent, not-for-profit, clinical reference laboratory founded and headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, co-sponsored by Presbyterian Healthcare Services and University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. TriCore provides over 2,900, full-service, state-of-the-art laboratory tests to healthcare professionals and their patients. TriCore also provides analytics and research services, supporting healthcare and scientific organizations worldwide.*

*For more information, visit* [tricore.org](http://www.tricore.org/)*.*