



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
DECEMBER 2004
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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE DECEMBER 2004

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ CPT Code Changes

The CPT codes listed are provided by the testing laboratory and are based on AMA guidelines. They are for informational purposes only. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.

The following CPT code changes are effective *immediately*.

Test Code	Test Name	New CPT
Reflex	Cryptococcal Antigen, Blood or CSF (new name), Quant	86406
6628/CAB	Cryptococcal Antigen, Blood, QUAL	86403
6629/CAC	Cryptococcal Antigen, CSF, Qual	86403
6695/GIA	Giardia Antigen	87329
6564/UC	Urine Culture	87086
6680/UCA	Urine Culture, Additional Workup	87086

The following CPT code changes will be in effect as of *January 1, 2005*.

Test Code	Test Name	Previous CPT	2005 CPT	Notes
42/BJP	Bence Jones ELP	84165 and 86334	84166 and 86335	Page B-2
2221/B2T	Beta-2 Transferrin	86334-90	86335-90	Page B-3
FM	Flow Marker *See Additional Information in Following Article	88180	88184 1st marker, 88185 each additional marker (technical only)	
7188/HPB	H. Pylori Breath Test	83013	83013 and 83014	Adding CPT for drug administration
3704/IFU	Immunofixation Urine	86334	86335	Page I-2
995/PHL	Phlebotomy	G0001	36415	
5995/PPP	Phlebotomy-Paternal	G0001	36415	
218/UEP	Protein ELP, 24 Hr Urine	84156 and 84165	84156 and 84166	Page P-12
3218/REP	Protein ELP, Random Urine	84156 and 84165	84156 and 84166	Page P-13
6533/RSV	RSV Rapid Antigen	87899	87807	

❖ Flow Marker Changes

Effective January 1, 2005, AMA CPT coding for flow markers will be split into separate technical and professional codes. Current AMA CPT coding will no longer be available. Due to these revised CPT codes, starting in 2005, Allina Medical Laboratories will no longer bill a global charge back to your account for flow marker testing. Effective January 1, 2005, Allina Medical Laboratories will bill technical charges only for flow marker testing to your facility. Our partners, Hospital Pathology Associates, P.A. will bill professional charges directly to the patients' insurance. It will be necessary to provide

complete patient demographics with any request for flow marker testing to allow HPA to create an accurate, compliant bill for these services.

New CPT codes for technical charges are:

88184: Flow Markers, technical component only, first marker only

88185: Flow Markers, technical component only, each additional marker

❖ **Medical Necessity**

With the implementation of our new billing system, Allina Medical Laboratories now has the ability to determine medical necessity of testing prior to releasing the claims to Medicare. Resolution of these claims must occur since AML can not bill Medicare for medically unnecessary testing.

To accomplish this, if supporting diagnoses are not supplied with a patient order that AML is to bill the payer, Lab Billing will be contacting clients to determine if diagnosis information originally provided is complete. Your office will receive a fax requesting a review of diagnosis coding submitted, along with diagnosis coding that Medicare deems supports medical necessity for the CPT code. Please review the fax that is received, note any additional supporting diagnoses and return the fax to the number indicated.

Please contact your AML Account Representative with any questions.

CHEMISTRY

❖ **Mumps Immunity Testing Coming In House**

On Monday, January 3, 2005 Allina Medical Laboratories will begin performing MUMPS IgG (Mumps Immune Status) in-house. Mumps will be performed Tuesday and Friday in Immunology. Specimen requirements and test information are included below.

Test Name	MUMPS IgG Antibody
Ultra	Test
Number/Code	524 / MPG
CPT Code	86735
List Price	
Days Performed	Tuesday's & Friday's
Turnaround Time	1 - 3 Days
Reference Range(s)	Positive: Indicates Immunity Present, Negative: Indicates no Immunity Present
Specimen Type	1 ml Serum
Container	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
Processing	Spin
Transport	Refrigerated

If you have any questions in regards to this information, please contact your Allina Medical Laboratories Account Representative.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

❖ **Video of October CEU Presentation Available**

Allina Medical Laboratories will be sponsoring quarterly CEU presentations on varying topics at locations around the Metro. For anyone unable to attend these sessions, we are

taping the presentations and making them available for viewing at your clinic. PACE accreditation is available with supervisor or manager documentation.

We have a limited number of tapes available of the October, 2004 presentation given by Dr John Mendiola, Molecular Diagnostics 101: Current and Future Applications, available to be checked out. We request that you return these tapes within two weeks to assure availability for all interested.

There is no charge for these tapes for Allina Medical Laboratories reference lab customers with signed service agreements with Allina Medical Laboratories. If you do not have a signed service agreement, the fee is \$5.00. Please make checks payable to Allina Medical Laboratories.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to obtain one of these tapes for viewing at your clinic, please contact your AML Account Representative, or Kay Zemlicka at 612-863-6602.

MICROBIOLOGY

❖ Clostridium difficile Recommendations and Culture Container Change

For detection of *Clostridium difficile* disease, Allina Medical Laboratories recommends ordering CDT/6588 Clostridium difficile Toxin A/B.

Clostridium difficile Tests

Test Name	Toxin A/B	Cytotoxin	Culture
Test Code/#	CDT / 6588	CCY / 6575	CDC / 2483
Detection	Detects Toxins A and B	Detects Toxin B only.	Does not detect toxins. Isolation of the organism only. Does not differentiate between the presence of disease and asymptomatic carriage of the organism.
Specimen	Liquid or soft stool	Liquid or soft stool	Liquid or soft stool
Container	Cary-Blair vial or clean container	Clean container	**Swab in Port-a-Cul anaerobic transport
Transport	<u>Cary-Blair vial:</u> refrigerated or room temp within 5 days <u>Clean container:</u> refrigerated within 48 hr.	Refrigerated, overnight or frozen on dry ice.	Refrigerated within 48 hours
Turnaround Time	1 day	2-4 days	4-6 days

**Change: If Clostridium difficile Culture is ordered, the specimen must be transported on a Port-a-Cul anaerobic swab.

❖ Giardia Antigen and Cryptosporidium Antigen Container Change

Effective immediately, stool specimens for Giardia Antigen (6695/GIA) or Cryptosporidium Antigen (6542/CRY) should be submitted in a Cary-Blair (C&S) transport

vial within 7 days of collection. A clean, leakproof container, submitted within 48 hours is also acceptable. Samples should be refrigerated.

Formalin vials are being discontinued due to the environmental hazard, but will be accepted until 1/10/05.

❖ **Ova and Parasites Container Change**

Effective January 10th, 2005, one Ecofix vial is replacing the two vial Formalin/PVA system for collection of Ova and Parasites (OP/6596), worms (Parasite Direct Exam, PAR/6684), and Microsporidium (Miscellaneous Sendout, MSO/994).

The one vial collection container will be easier for patients. In addition the Ecofix vial is formalin and mercury free and is not an environmental hazard.

Ecofix vials may be requested from AML in December, but ***specimens can not be submitted in these vials until 1/10/05***. Transport inoculated Ecofix vials to AML at ambient temperatures.

Please return any unused Formalin/PVA vials to Allina Medical Laboratories for proper disposal.

❖ **Antiseptic Use for Blood Culture Collection from Infants Less Than 2 Months**

Currently the ChloroPrep Sepp applicator lacks FDA approval for disinfection of the skin of infants less than 2 months of age. Use 2% Iodine Tincture (MediFlex Sepp applicator, 260261), instead of the ChloroPrep Sepp, for skin preparation for collection of blood cultures on infants less than 2 months of age.

See the attached addendum to the Blood Culture Collection procedure for use of iodine tincture for disinfection in infants less than 2 months of age.

SENDOUTS

❖ **Viral Culture and DFA Reminder**

This message, in regards to changes occurring at ViroMed Laboratories, was originally shared with our clients in May of this year. It is being redistributed at this time in response to recent inquiries about RSV DFA testing. The original message also stated that the Legionella culture would also not include a DFA, however, ViroMed has since notified AML that the Legionella culture will continue to include a DFA.

❖ **Selenium and Renin Changes**

Effective January 17th, 2005, the transport temperature for ***Selenium (98/SEL)*** will change:

Current Transport: Refrigerated
New Transport: Frozen

Quest Diagnostics has informed AML that the processing instructions for ***Renin, Direct (5228/REN)*** have changed.

Current Specimen: 5 ml Frozen Plasma (EDTA)
New Specimen: 2 ml Frozen Plasma (EDTA)
Container: Plastic Transfer Vial (No Change)
Processing: Spin, Separate and **Fast Freeze Immediately**
(Must not be exposed to Refrigerator Temperature)

Following are the instructions as received from Quest:

Do NOT pre-chill the EDTA tube. Process the blood at room temperature. Separate plasma from cells immediately after collection using a non-refrigerated centrifuge. Transfer plasma to a plastic vial and then fast-freeze. It is necessary to ensure that freezing temperature is maintained at all times and that no exposure to refrigerated temperatures occurs during storage or transportation.

Refrigerated: Sample is Unstable - (causes elevation in results).

❖ **Viral Cultures**

Cultures that currently include a DFA (Dermal, NP, RSV and VZV cultures) will no longer have a DFA included.

Example: VDM - Viral Culture Dermal currently has: VZV DFA, VZV Shell Vial, HSV Shell Vial and Tube Culture. The VZV DFA will no longer be included. The testing will only include the two shell vials.

- The culture testing will no longer include the CPT code for the DFA
- ***If the provider wants a DFA, it must be ordered separately.***
- DFA testing should be ordered as a 994/MSO. Be sure to specify which organism you are requesting.
- The DFA must be ordered at the same time as the culture – it *can not* be an Add-on.
- The CPT code and pricing for the DFA's is as follows:

	CPT	Price
RSV DFA	87280	\$50.50
VZV DFA	87290	\$33.50

HELP US HELP YOU

❖ **Patient Phone Numbers**

Often times when AML calls STAT or critical lab results to a physician on call, the physician asks our staff for the patient's phone number. Please make sure that you are supplying current phone numbers for your patients with each order submitted so that we can supply accurate information to the physician.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES! WE VALUE YOUR BUSINESS!

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