



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005
UPDATE**

- BILLING AND COMPLIANCE**
 - Andrology Exam Room Charges

- CHEMISTRY**
 - Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Specimen Stability

- MICROBIOLOGY**
 - Ova & Parasite Container Change Complete

- SENDOUTS**
 - Inborn Errors of Metabolism Testing Changes
 - Neocomplete Paraneoplastic Panel Change
 - Celiac Panel Changes
 - Specimen Requirement and Reference Range Changes

- SUPPLIES**
 - Improved Microtainer Tubes Available

- CONTINUING EDUCATION**
 - FISHing for Answers Coming March 15th

ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ Andrology Exam Room Charges

Effective February 1, 2005, the Allina Medical Laboratories Andrology laboratory, located at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, began billing patients directly for exam room usage during artificial insemination procedures. This fee, which includes room usage and insemination supplies such as catheters and speculums, is a self-pay only charge to the patient of \$65 and is not eligible for insurance reimbursement.

Please inform your patients of this charge when an insemination is performed at the AML Andrology Laboratory.

If you have additional questions regarding this policy change, please contact Cindy Thorp at 612-863-4115.

CHEMISTRY

❖ Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Specimen Stability

It is AML's practice to retain specimens for 7 days; however, not all analytes are stable for the entire seven day period. A reference chart has been included at the end of this edition of the Update Newsletter, which indicates the stability in number of days for TDM specimens stored at 2-8° C. This chart will also be posted as a reference on our AML website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories.

MICROBIOLOGY

❖ Ova & Parasites Container Change Complete

Effective January 10th, 2005, one Ecofix vial replaced 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 is easier for patients. In addition the Ecofix vial is formalin and mercury free and is not an environmental hazard.

Due to different staining processes, specimens for Ova & Parasite examination **can no longer be accepted in the old Formalin/PVA vial system.**

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

SENDOUTS

❖ Inborn Errors of Metabolism Testing Changes

Effective immediately, the Inborn Errors of Metabolism screen has been discontinued, and the tests that were included in the screen are offered only on an individual order basis. The recommended tests are:

- Organic Acids, Urine: 404/OAU
- Acylcarnitine, Plasma: 994/MSO

and one of the Amino Acids listed below

- Amino Acids Plasma (Quant) : 290/AAQ
- Amino Acids Plasma (Qual) : 2314 /AAL
- Amino Acids Urine (Quant): 322/AQU
- Amino Acids Urine (Qual): 291/AAU

Other tests that are available include:

- Carbohydrates, Urine
- Biotinidase, QN, Serum
- Homogentisic Acid, QL, Urine
- Oligosaccharides Screen, Urine
- Mucopolysaccharides Screen, Urine
- Purine & Pyrimidine Panel, Urine

All specimens received at AML for Inborn Errors of Metabolism Screen are being held until we can gather further information. We will need for the ordering provider to specify exactly which tests they would like run.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause to you or your patients.

❖ Neocomplete Paraneoplastic Panel Change

Effective immediately, Athena Laboratories has added an additional antibody, Zic4, to the Neocomplete Paraneoplastic Panel. Due to this addition, the Athena test number for this panel has changed from 367 to 368.

❖ Celiac Panel Changes

Quest Diagnostics has changed the components included in the Celiac Panel (2980/CEL). Effective immediately, the IgG Transglutaminase antibody has been deleted and the panel will consist of Tissue Transglutaminase IgA, Gliadin IgA, and Serum IgA only.

Our pathologists feel this is an acceptable screening panel if the total IgA level is in the normal range. For patients with IgA deficiencies, additional testing should be considered. Ordering the Tissue Transglutaminase IgG (4888/TTG) would be appropriate in this case. Reports containing a low IgA total will be amended to note that additional testing may be necessary to clarify patient's status. The comment will read "Total IgA level decreased, additional testing (Tissue Transglutaminase IgG) warranted to evaluate for presence of celiac disease."

Test Name:	Celiac Disease Diagnostic Panel
Test Code:	2980/CEL
Specimen:	3ml serum, plain red top
Container:	Plastic Transfer Vial
Transport:	Refrigerated
Performing Lab:	Quest
CPT Codes:	83516-90, 83520-90 and 82784-90
List Price:	\$72.60

❖ Specimen Requirement, Transport, CPT Code and Reference Range Changes

Quest Diagnostics has notified AML of several upcoming changes in specimen requirements, processing, container, CPT code and reference ranges.

Testosterone, Free and Total (646/TTF)

Effective March 7, 2005, the specimen requirements and reference ranges for *Testosterone, Free & Total*, will be changing

Specimen:	
Current:	3 ml serum
New:	3 ml serum – Plain Red
Container:	
Current:	SST
New:	Plastic Transfer Vial
Processing:	
Current:	Spin
New:	Spin and Separate
Reference Range:	
New:	Multiple age and sex dependent ranges. See Report

Beta Hydroxybutyrate (5515/BTH)

Effective March 14, 2005, the reference range and CPT code for the *Beta Hydroxybutyrate* will be changing.

Reference Range:	Current:	<0.4 mmol/L or less
	New:	<0.28 mmol/L or less
CPT:	Current:	84311-90

11 Deoxycortisol, 2625/11D

Effective March 14, 2005, the specimen, processing, transport temperature, container and reference ranges for *11 Deoxycortisol* will be changing.

Specimen:	
Current:	1 ml serum
New:	1 ml Serum - PLAIN Red only SST unacceptable
Container:	
Current:	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
New:	Plastic Transfer Vial
Processing:	
Current:	Spin
New:	Spin, Separate and FREEZE
Transport:	
Current:	Refrigerated
New:	Frozen
Reference Range:	
New:	Multiple age and sex dependent ranges. See Report

Aldosterone 22/ALS:

Effective March 14, 2005, the specimen, processing, transport temperature, container and reference ranges for *Aldosterone* will be changing.

Specimen:	
Current:	2 ml Serum
New:	2 ml Serum - PLAIN Red only SST unacceptable
Container:	
Current:	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
New:	Plastic Transfer Vial
Processing:	
Current:	Spin
New:	Spin Separate and Freeze
Transport:	
Current:	Refrigerated
New:	Frozen
Reference Ranges:	
New:	Multiple age and sex dependent ranges. See Report

17- Hydroxyprogesterone, 645/17P

Effective March 14, 2005, the specimen, processing and transport temperature, container and reference ranges for *17-Hydroxyprogesterone* will be changing.

Specimen:

Current: 1 ml Serum
New: 1 ml Serum - PLAIN Red only
SST unacceptable

Container:

Current: Serum Separator Tube (SST)
New: Plastic Transfer Vial

Processing:

Current: Spin
New: Spin Separate and Freeze

Transport:

Current: Refrigerated
New: Frozen

Reference Ranges:

New: Multiple age and sex dependent ranges.
See Report

Androstenedione, 664/AND

Effective March 14, 2005, the specimen, processing, and container for *Androstenedione* will be changing.

Specimen:

Current: 2 ml Serum
New: 1 ml Serum - PLAIN Red only
SST unacceptable

Container:

Current: Serum Separator Tube (SST)
New: Plastic Transfer Vial

Processing:

Current: Spin
New: Spin and Separate

SUPPLIES

❖ Improved Microtainer Tubes Available

Effective immediately, AML will be filling microtainer tube supply requests with a new, improved product. A bag of extender tubes will be included along with each bag of microtainer tubes issued (lavender, gold, red or light green).

An extender tube should be inserted into the bottom of each microtainer tube submitted to AML for testing. The extender allows patient management labels to be applied on the tube, providing a better labeling system.

If you have any questions about these new tubes, please contact your AML Account Representative

CONTINUING EDUCATION

❖ FISHing for Answers Coming March 15th

On March 15th, Allina Medical Laboratories and ASCLS-MN will be hosting a continuing education program. Dr Kevin Stieglbauer and Bill Wyatt (CLS) will be presenting 'FISHing For Answers' describing basic cytogenetic testing and illustrating the connection between this testing and pathology. Sara Pietz, PA will be presenting 'Anatomical & Clinical Case Studies'.

This program will be held from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Unity Hospital Auditorium. Registration brochures have been mailed to all AML clients, however, if you did not receive yours, or need to print additional, they can be found on our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories. Click on the Continuing Education link in the left hand navigation bar, and then click on the Fishing for Answers & Case Studies link. Pre-registration by March 7th is encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact AML at 612-863-4678, Option 1.

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories