



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
AUGUST 2004
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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

AUGUST 2004

BILLING

❖ **Xifin Go-Live Date is October 1, 2004**

AML's new billing system, Xifin, will go-live on October 1. We have been busy testing and training on the new system. From a client perspective, you will see a new invoice beginning in early November. All samples with a collection date of October 1 or after will be billed through the new system. Additionally there may be a few months when you will receive invoices from both our former system and the new system if corrections are made to the billing of specimens from prior months or if you have an outstanding balance.

Lab Billing is very excited about Xifin and the streamlined work flow that can be developed using this product. We are currently exploring all of the functionality available in order to provide our clients with a smooth transition as we implement the new system. Please watch for additional information in the coming months.

❖ **Fee Changes Effective October 1, 2004**

In preparation for our new billing system, we have conducted an audit of our current fee schedules and identified some incorrectly priced tests. To correct these errors, list pricing for these tests will be adjusted effective October 1, 2004, to coincide with the implementation of XIFIN.

A listing of these tests, with the new fees is included at the end of this Update newsletter.

CHEMISTRY

❖ Methotrexate Testing Brought In-House

On August 16, 2004 Allina Medical Laboratories began performing Methotrexate testing in-house.

Test Name	Methotrexate
Test Number	939/MTX
CPT Code	83520
List Price	\$55.00
Days Performed	Monday - Sunday
Specimen Type	Serum – Plain Red
Container	Amber or Foil Wrapped Aliquot Vial
Processing	Spin & Separate
Transport	Refrigerated
Special Instructions	PROTECT FROM LIGHT. Freeze if unable to send same day. Gel tubes are unacceptable and will be rejected

Please contact your AML Account Representative with any questions

CUSTOMER SERVICE

❖ AML Collection Manual Updates

Test Name	Page	Update
URE-Urethral Culture & Gram Stain	U-1	Change test number from 622 to 625
Kleihauer Stain	K-2	Change the test code from FCS to KLE

CYTOLOGY

❖ Labeling of Slides for Cytology

In order to ensure proper identification of patient's cytology specimens, it is critical that slides are properly labeled. When submitting slides for cytological examination, please make sure that the slides are labeled in pencil and include the following information; first and last name and date of birth. If more than one smear is submitted, please also include the source or location.

HISTOLOGY

❖ Submission of Multiple Tissue Specimens From an Individual Patient

If multiple sites are sampled from an individual patient, in order to ensure that a correct diagnosis per site is issued, each specimen should be submitted in an individual formalin jar. All specimens can be submitted on a single requisition by labeling each jar with a unique letter (A, B, C etc) and including corresponding documentation with the specimen site origination on the requisition.

MICROBIOLOGY

❖ GC and Chlamydia Testing on Non-Genital Sources

Because GC and Chlamydia PCR testing is only valid on cervical, male urethral, and urine sources, special consideration must be taken when collecting specimens for these tests from non-genital sources, such as eye, throat, and rectal.

If GC testing is requested on a non-genital source, a specimen for a GC Culture (6582/GC) should be collected and submitted. Specimens for GC culture should be collected using a charcoal culture swab with a standard size swab.

Specimens for Chlamydia trachomatis Culture (6569/CTR) from non-genital sources should be collected using a M4-RT Transport Media tube.

❖ Transport of Specimens for Urine Culture

In order to maintain specimen integrity, AML recommends that all specimens submitted for Urine Culture (6564/UC) or Urine Culture, Additional Workup (6680/UCA) be transported to AML in a BD UC Preservative Tube. These tubes contain a preservative that will maintain the urine specimen in its original state for up to 48 hours at room temperature.

These tubes can be ordered on our AML web site, by calling AML Supplies at 612-863-4678 and selecting Option 2, or by faxing a completed AML Supply Request form to 612-863-4067.

MOLECULAR

❖ HPV Testing Protocol Change

In an effort to provide the highest quality laboratory testing and to assure compliance with a new FDA approved testing protocol, Allina Medical Laboratories Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory has instituted a retest zone for HPV Hybrid Capture II assay. Patients with close positive results will be re-extracted and retested in duplicate. Tests will be answered as positive if two out of three or three out of three results are positive. If both repeat tests are negative, the test will be answered as a negative. Approximately 75% of close positive tests are expected to repeat as positive. There are no additional charges for the repeat tests. HPV testing is currently run once per week. If a patient tests with a close positive on the initial testing, a final report may not be generated for an additional week. If you have any questions call the Allina Medical Laboratories Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at 612-863-4475.

SENDOUTS

❖ Mumps Immunity Testing Changes

ViroMed Laboratories has informed AML that the test Mumps Immunity (1824/MMI) is no longer available. Please make note of this in your AML Collection Manual.

The discontinued test has been replaced by Mumps IgG (524/MPG). Information about this test can be found on page M-8 of your AML Collection Manual

❖ Lyme Testing Changes

ViroMed Laboratories has notified AML that the following tests are no longer available as individual tests:

Lyme IgG Antibody	636/LIG
Lyme Western Blot, IgG	5740/LWG
Lyme Western Blot, IgM	5741/LWM

Please make note of this in your AML Collection Manual.

If a physician wants a Lyme IgG, he should order a Lyme, Polyvalent, *with* reflex to Western Blot Confirmation ((6759/LYR) or *without* reflex to Western Blot Confirmation (4750/LYM).

SUPPLIES

❖ Urine Culture Preservative Supply Substitution

AML has received notice that 5ml Urine Culture Preservative Tubes are on manufacturer backorder.

As a substitution, any orders received for this product will be filled with 10 ml preservative tubes. These tubes have the same grey cap as the 5ml tubes. The minimum fill is 9 ml. If you do not have 9 ml of urine, please submit the specimen in a sterile cup at refrigerated temperatures.

After the item is no longer on backorder, AML will return to supplying 5 ml urine culture preservative tubes.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact your AML Account Representative.

WEB SITE

❖ Chemistry Specimen Stability Grids Coming Soon

Although Allina Medical Laboratories retains specimens for seven days, many specimens are not suitable for testing for the full 7 days.

In order to help you determine the suitability of specimens for testing, AML is in the process of creating grids which will list the appropriate specimen type and stability of the specimen.

The first grids to be completed will be for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Immunochemistry areas. Once these grids are completed, they will be posted on our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories under the Reference Guides link. Other grids will follow as they are completed.

HELP US HELP YOU

❖ Alternate Collection Centers

For the convenience of your patients, Allina has several alternate collection centers where your patients can drop off specimens, or have blood specimens collected. Patients should bring an AML request form, completely filled out, from your office or clinic. Diagnostic coding or verbiage is required for all testing that is to be billed to the patient's insurance.

Locations and hours are as follows:

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

800 East 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-863-4467
M-F: 6am – 6pm Sat/Sun/Holiday: 7am – 3pm

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Medical Office Building Patient Service Center

2545 Chicago Avenue South
Suite 209
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-863-3312
M-Th: 9am – 4:30 pm

Abbott Northwestern Specialty Care Center

Allina Medical Laboratories – Sartell

2000 Abbott Northwestern Court
Suite 200
Sartell, MN 56377
320-534-2354
M-F: 7:30am – noon & 1 – 5 pm

Mercy Hospital

4050 Coon Rapids Boulevard
Coon Rapids, MN 55423
763-236-8158
M-F: 6am – 6pm Sat/Sun/Holiday: 7am – 3pm

** Specimens for Semen Analysis or Post Vasectomy Analysis will be accepted Monday – Friday from 7am-10am*

Mercy Health Care Building

Patient Service Center

3960 Coon Rapids Boulevard
Coon Rapids, MN 55423
763-236-6800
M-F: 7am – 5pm

United Hospital

333 North Smith Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-241-8736
M-F: 6am – 6pm Sat/Sun/Holiday: 7am – 3pm

Unity Hospital

500 Osborne Road
Fridley, MN 55432
M-F: 6am – 6pm Sat/Sun/Holiday: 7am – 3pm

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories