



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES  
JUNE 2004  
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# ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

## JUNE 2004

### BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

#### ❖ NEW BILLING SYSTEM COMING

In the fall of 2004, Allina Medical Laboratories will be implementing a new billing system, Xifin. AML will use Xifin to generate client bills as well as third-party insurance bills. Xifin will provide AML with enhanced up-front edit checks such as CCI, LMRP, and NCD's to reduce the number of claims being rejected and requiring resubmission to payers. From a client perspective, you will notice a new invoice when Xifin is implemented and for a period of time, you may receive two invoices to cover charges that were pre-Xifin (current invoice format) and post-Xifin (new invoice format). As the implementation date approaches, AML will be sending additional correspondence to you via the Update and/or a separate mailing.

#### ❖ POST VASECTOMY ANALYSIS BILLING

In 2002, in response to a compliance concern raised regarding coding of post vasectomy specimens, Allina Medical Laboratories determined that it could no longer bill patient insurance for the performance of Post Vasectomy semen analysis testing. All post vasectomy semen analysis testing would need to be billed directly to the clinic ordering such testing. According to the AMA CPT coding manual, coding and reimbursement for a vasectomy included all testing for the post vasectomy semen analysis.

As this protocol rolled out, numerous questions also arose, and further investigation was needed. Queries went out to various sources and conflicting information was received. Several months ago, a direct question was posed to the AMA for clarification and confirmation of correct practice.

Allina Medical Laboratories recently received a response to our query and it indicated that Allina Medical Laboratories, as a reference laboratory, would have the ability to bill patient insurance for post vasectomy sent in from outside of the hospital. The intention of CPT code 55250 is for when post vasectomy semen analysis are performed at the physician's office, not when referred out. *Effective immediately*, Allina Medical Laboratories will allow requests, for bill patient insurance, when post vasectomy testing is received.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pat Wolfson, Allina Medical Laboratories Compliance Manager at 612-863-8967.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### ❖ COLLECTION MANUAL UPDATES

Please make the following revisions to the test information included in your copies of the AML 2003 Collection Manual.

**Test Name:** ***Clonazepam (Klonopin)***  
**Page:** C-15  
**Special Instructions:** Wrap tube in foil, or transfer serum to an amber aliquot vial to protect from light.

**Test Name:** ***Fungus Culture – Skin, Hair, Nails***  
**Page:** F-9  
**Expected Turn Around Time:** Change from 1 Day to 4 Weeks

**Test Name:** ***Microsomal Antibody***  
**Page:** M-6  
**Processing:** Change from Spin, Separate and Freeze Immediately to Spin, Separate and Freeze *within 24 hours*

**Test Name:** ***Ova & Parasites***  
**Page:** O-3  
**Special Instructions:** Change Special Instructions to read: Collect specimen in clean container and transfer to PVA and Formalin vials. *Acceptable: Only one specimen/day. Recommended: 3 Stool specimens collected 2 days apart*

**Test Name:** ***Smooth Muscle Antibody***  
**Page:** S-3  
**Special Instructions:** Delete the statement “Reflex to titer if positive”.

**Test Name:** ***Stool Culture***  
**Page:** S-6  
**Special Instructions:** Change Special Instructions to read: Collect specimen in a clean container and transfer to Cary Blair vial. Routine culture includes examination for: Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E coli O157:H7, Aeromonas & predominance of Staph aureus, Pseudomonas & Candida albicans. *Acceptable: Only once specimen/day. Recommended: 2-3 specimens collected on separate days.*

**Test Name:** ***Thyroglobulin Antibody***  
**Page:** T-6  
**Processing:** Change from Spin, Separate and Freeze Immediately to Spin, Separate and Freeze *within 24 hours*

## FROM THE PATHOLOGISTS

### ❖ HER 2 TESTING

*By: Dr Tamara Lillemoe*

Her2 /neu is an oncoprotein that may be overexpressed in patients with breast cancer. A new drug therapy, Herceptin (also called Trastuzumab), has been developed to treat breast cancer patients whose tumors may over express this oncoprotein. This drug is a humanized monoclonal antibody that has been developed to attack cancer cells and inhibit proliferation of these cells that express the Her2 oncoprotein. In contrast, conventional chemotherapy usually targets all proliferating cells, not just the tumor cells. Thus, the Her2 status of a patient's breast cancer can be very instrumental in identifying which treatment modalities may be of most benefit to breast cancer patients.

Allina Medical Laboratories (AML) currently offers two types of testing for Her2 status. The HercepTest uses immunohistochemistry to detect protein overexpression. And, the FISH test (fluorescence in situ hybridization) detects gene amplification. Until recently, AML has been performing the HercepTest as the initial screening test, with borderline cases referred for FISH testing. However, emerging information is showing a stronger correlation with patient response to Herceptin therapy with gene amplification (FISH testing) as compared to protein overexpression. Thus, AML will begin performing the Her2 evaluation by FISH, when this test is requested. We will also provide the HercepTest for those physicians who specifically request the immunohistochemical type of evaluation.

## HELP US HELP YOU

### ❖ MINIMUM VOLUME

Allina Medical Laboratories Send Outs department has noticed an increasing number of test results coming back as QNS (Quantity Not Sufficient) or having to be performed on dilutions of the original specimen because the sample volume is not adequate.

Sample volume is critical to testing. Minimum specimen volumes should be submitted only when there is absolutely no additional specimen available.

In order to collect adequate specimen, please remember that if a test requires 4ml of plasma or serum, you will need to collect 10ml of whole blood in order to obtain that amount of plasma/serum.

## MICROBIOLOGY

### ❖ FUNGAL STAIN CHANGES

In order to enhance test quality, fungal stains on body fluids, esophageal brushings, sputum, urine or other sources that have previously been performed in Microbiology have been moved to Cytology. Using thin prep technology, the specimen will be concentrated, optimizing the quality of the specimen. Because of this performing department change, Fungus Stain results will appear in the pathology report format.

KOH preps will continue to be performed in Microbiology with no reporting changes.

Fungal stain requests on tissue specimens will be performed in Histology, with results in the pathology report format.

Please see the summary below to identify correct requisition to submit your specimens. Please write in Fungal Stain until new requisitions can be created.

#### **Ordering Summary:**

Source	Test # /Code	Test Name	Dept	Requisition	CPT/ List Price
Skin, Hair, Nails	4348/ KOS	KOH Prep- Skin, Hair, Nails	Micro	Blue Clinical	No Change
Vaginal, Mouth, Stool	6524/ KOH	KOH Prep- Other Sources	Micro	Blue Clinical	No Change
Tissue	None	Fungus Stain/ Pneumo- cystis Stain	Histology	Histology- Write to include Fungus Stain	88312 \$90.30
Body Fluid, Esopha- geal Brushing, Sputum, Urine or Other Sources	None	Fungus Stain/ Pneumo- cystis Stain	Cytology	Non-GYN Cytology- Write to include Fungus Stain	88312 \$90.30

If you are submitting a tissue or body fluid for both a culture and a fungal stain, two requisitions should be completed. The Fungal Culture should be ordered on a blue Clinical Requisition, and the stain should be ordered on either the Histology or Cytology requisition, dependent on which type of specimen is submitted (refer to the chart above). Both requisitions should be included with the specimen in one specimen bag.

## SENDOUTS

### ❖ REFERENCE RANGE CHANGE

The reference range for the ***Alkaline Phosphatase, Bone Specific*** (7182/APB) has changed. The new reference range is:

Adult Male – 8.8 – 30.0 µg/L

Adult Female – 5.7 – 22.0 µg/L

### ❖ PYRUVATE TEST CHANGES

AML has converted Pyruvate testing from Fairview University Laboratories to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Test information is included below.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b><i>Pyruvate</i></b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	994/MSO
<b>Specimen:</b>	See Special Instructions
<b>Container:</b>	6% Perchloric Acid Vial
<b>Processing:</b>	See Special Instructions
<b>Transport:</b>	Refrigerated
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	Mayo Medical Laboratories
<b>Reference Range:</b>	0.08-0.016 mmol/L
<b>Special Instructions:</b>	Draw 1.5 ml blood into a 3-5 ml syringe and immediately dispense 1ml of blood into COLD 6% perchloric acid tube (Call Customer Service to obtain). Cap tube and mix well by shaking gently until entire solution is brown in color
<b>CPT Code:</b>	84210.90
<b>List Price:</b>	\$106.30

### ❖ VIROMED CHANGES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

ViroMed Laboratories has changed to a new computer system. They have also made changes in methodologies that coincide with the implementation of their new IS. Some of the changes because of this transition are outlined below.

#### TEST METHODS

Tests that are currently performed by complement fixation and are resulted with a titer will be changing to EIA. These EIA results will be reported as an Index Value. Interpretive information for the Index Value will be included on the report.

The tests affected by this change are:

- Measles (Rubeola) IGG
- Mumps IGG
- Mycoplasma pneumonia IGG,
- VZV IGG
- Q Fever IGG.

## VIRAL CULTURES

Cultures that currently include a DFA (Dermal, NP, 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 now only includes the two shell vials.

- The culture testing no longer includes 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 CPT code and pricing for the DFA's is as follows:

	<b>CPT</b>	<b>Price</b>
RSV DFA	87280	\$50.50
VZV DFA	87290	\$33.50

## SUPPLIES

### ❖ CHARCOAL SWABS FOR GC CULTURE AVAILABLE

Charcoal swabs are now available for collection and transport of specimens for GC Culture.

Specimens: Throat, eye, rectal

**Note:** For cervical, male urethral, and male urine specimens, GC DNA PCR is a more sensitive method.

Transport: Room temperature. Must be plated within 24 hours of collection.

This standard swab charcoal culturette is available in the AML online Supply Catalog ([www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories)) in both the Microbiology Swab and Microbiology/Virology Pathogen sections.

The on line AML Collection Manual has been updated with this new information. Please make a note of this information in your AML Collection Manual

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

[www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories)