



ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE – FEBRUARY, 2004

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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

FEBRUARY, 2004

ANDROLOGY

❖ INFORMED CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In order to ensure protection for the patient, the provider, and the laboratory, effective March 20, 2004, all providers referring patients to the Allina Medical Laboratories Andrology Laboratory at Abbott Northwestern Hospital for donor sperm insemination will need to sign the Verification of Informed Consent for Donor Sperm indicating that they have reviewed this document with the patient. In addition, all patients will need to read and sign a separate Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement before samples will be released for use. Patients will not be allowed to pick up donor samples from the laboratory if these forms are not signed.

Completed Verification of Informed Consent form and Release of Liability can be mailed or faxed prior to the patient's appointment to:

Allina Medical Laboratories Andrology Laboratory
800 East 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Fax number 612-863-4146

Physicians can contact the Andrology laboratory at 612-863-4115 to obtain copies of these forms.

❖ CRYOPRESERVATION UPDATE

Due to increasing concern over recipient safety, effective immediately, the Andrology Laboratory at Abbott Northwestern Hospital will no longer be cryopreserving known donor semen samples. All patients will be referred to Cryogenic Laboratories for the necessary screening and cryopreservation of these samples.

BILLING

❖ TEST BUNDLING

On your invoice or daily charge sheet, you may see a charge and CPT code for a General Health Panel. A General Health Panel (80050) consists of the following tests:

- Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (80053)
 - Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) (84443)
 - CBC with platelet and automated diff (85025)
- OR**
- CBC with platelet (85027) and manual diff (85007 or 85009)

The OIG (Office of the Inspector General) regulations require that whenever the same provider orders these tests on a patient within a 24-hour period, Allina Medical Laboratories must bundle

the tests and bill for a General Health Panel. Due to this panel involving multiple testing departments in our LIS, the individual component tests must be ordered separately. While AML does not offer a test code for a general health panel, if all the components are ordered, to be compliant, AML will bill using CPT code 80050, (General Health Panel).

❖ **SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR BILLING CORRECTIONS**

For expedited billing corrections, please submit all corrections on the Allina Medical Laboratories Billing Correction form. A copy of this form was included with your January invoice. If you did not receive it or need an additional copy, please contact your account representative or call Allina Medical Laboratories Billing at 612-775-9300. The form may also be obtained from our website, www.allina.com/medicallaboratories, by clicking on the View Billing Correction Form link. Adjustments received by Allina Medical Laboratories Billing by the end of the month should appear on that month's invoice. Adjustments received after the first of the month will most likely appear on the following month's invoice.

❖ **HEAVY METAL CPT CODE CLARIFICATION**

Heavy metal testing is not a screening test. Whether the specimen is blood or urine, quantitative testing is always performed.

We have found an error in our recommended CPT coding for Heavy Metals. The *correct* CPT codes for the **Heavy Metal, 24 Hr Urine** (128/HMU) and **Heavy Metal, Blood** (146/HMB) are:

83655-90 (lead),
82175-90 (arsenic) and
83825-90 (mercury).

These CPT codes are correctly listed for the Heavy Metal tests on page H-4, and for the individual tests (Arsenic, page A-16, Lead, page L-3 and Mercury, page M-3) of the 2003 AML Collection Manual. March billing invoices will list these correct CPT codes.

BLOOD BANK / TRANSFUSION SERVICES

❖ **COLD AGGLUTININS**

Cold Agglutinins (3667/CGG) must be collected in a plain red tube. Processing instructions are to spin specimen separate, and transport both the serum and the cells to AML.

In order to assure that both components remain together, please rubber band the labeled aliquot tube containing the serum together with the original red top tube containing the red cell clot. A comment has been added to the Special Instructions of the AML on line Collection Manual with these instructions. Please make a note in your copy of the 2003 AML Collection Manual on page C-19.

CHEMISTRY

❖ INSULIN TESTING BROUGHT IN HOUSE

On Monday January 19, 2004, Allina Medical Laboratories began performing Insulin testing in-house. Specimen requirements, testing and billing information are included below.

Test Name:	Insulin
Test Number/Code:	141/INS
CPT Code:	83525
List Price:	\$32.30
Days Performed:	Monday – Friday, Performed on the day shift
TAT:	1-3 days
Specimen Type:	Serum or Heparinized Plasma
Container:	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
Processing:	Spin
Transport:	Refrigerated (2 – 8°C)
Special Instructions:	Specimen stable 3 days refrigerated (2 – 8°C), If unable to send same day, transfer to a properly labeled (patient information, as well as spot label indicating specimen type) aliquot tube and freeze

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

❖ IMMUNOLOGY TESTING REFERENCE

For your convenience, an Immunology Sample/ Test Request Information reference chart has been included at the end of this newsletter.

❖ RAPID HIV TEST AVAILABLE SOON

On Monday, March 1, 2004, Allina Medical Laboratories will begin performing the OraQuick Rapid HIV test. **This test is intended to be used in cases of employee exposure and for use by Infection Control. This test does not replace the current HIV-1 test.**

If you have any questions please contact Tom Massmann, Allina Medical Laboratories Chemistry Technical Consultant at 612-863-4223.

Test Name:	Rapid HIV
Test Number/Code:	7189/RHV
CPT Code:	86701
List Price:	\$58.00
Days Performed:	Monday - Sunday
Specimen Type:	5 ml Whole Blood
Container:	Lavender Top Tube (EDTA)
Processing:	Submit tube unspun
Transport:	Refrigerated

CUSTOMER SERVICE

❖ INTRODUCING AML CUSTOMER SERVICE EMAIL

We are pleased to announce that Allina Medical Laboratories clients can now communicate with AML Customer Service via email. Please send us questions, comments, or any *non-urgent* communication via email.

Our email address is MedicalLab@allina.com.

❖ COLLECTION MANUAL UPDATES

Please see the chart included at the end of this Update edition indicating all of the updates that need to be made to your 2003 AML Collection Manual.

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

❖ NEW REPORT FORMAT

In response to customer feedback, Allina Medical Laboratories will soon be making changes to our reports. A team of physician and Lab Information Services staff worked together with our LIS to develop these improved report formats to meet your needs.

Microbiology Panels: Effective March 15, 2004

All microbiology panels will no longer print in groups in a predefined order. Microbiology reports will print the most recent work first.

This will affect Reference lab interim and complete reports, as well as IP/OP summary reports.

Nutritional Assessment Panels: Effective March 16, 2004

Nutritional assessment panels will now be moved to appear in the hematology report group to allow for an improved comparison of abnormalities.

This will affect Reference interim and complete reports as well as IP/OP summary reports. The affected tests include:

- Vitamin B12
- Folic Acid
- RBC Folate
- Pernicious Anemia Cascade
- Ferritin
- Iron
- Iron + Iron Binding Capacity
- Transferrin
- Soluble Transferrin Receptor.

Inpatient/Outpatient Reports: Effective March 16, 2004

We will also be changing the layout of our Inpatient and some Outpatient reports for improved readability. These new formats for the Daily Summary (hospital inpatients) and the Discharge Summary (hospital inpatients and outpatients) are displayed in a user-friendlier vertical format rather than a horizontal format.

This report format change will not affect your reference lab reports, but your providers may see these changes for their hospital patients.

An example of the vertical format report has been included at the end of this newsletter for your reference.

CYTOLOGY

❖ THIN PREP PAP SUPPLY INVENTORY

Allina Medical Laboratories would like to remind each of our clients of the importance of proper inventory and rotation of the Cytoc Thin Prep Vials. These vials have outdates stamped on their labels. If these vials outdate prior to processing of a patient's specimen, the specimen must be rejected. To ensure that your patient's specimens can be processed, it is essential that your clinic continually monitor your supply levels and the expiration date of those supplies.

Because HPV testing can be performed for up to 21 days after the specimen collection, it is essential that specimens for HPV and HPV Reflex be collected in vials with at least one month remaining before expiration date.

Please examine your clinic's supply of ThinPrep vials, paying special attention to the expiration date. Rotate supplies in the drawers, locating the vials with the shortest outdates near the front so that they will be used first, and making sure that no expired vials remain in your supplies

If you find that you have any vials in your supplies with less than a three-month outdate, and you will not be able to use them prior to the expiration date, please return those vials to AML. We will attempt to re-distribute those vials to a client who will be able to utilize them prior to the expiration date. Please label the package "**Attention: Jamie**" and return them to AML as soon as possible with your regular courier. Please make sure to include your clinic name so that we know who has returned supplies. If you need additional supplies to replace those that were returned, please include a request including that information in the package as well.

Thank you very much for your help in this process. By working together, we can all help to make sure that you and your patients receive quality service and results.

HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION

❖ PLATELET AGGREGATION TESTING NO LONGER PERFORMED IN HOUSE

Effective immediately, Platelet Aggregation testing is no longer being performed in house. If requested, this test will be sent to the University of Minnesota.

The Platelet Function test is offered as a screening test before a platelet aggregation study is done.

Please refer to information published in the December 2003 Update, or the AML on-line Collection Manual at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories.

❖ RED CELL FRAGILITY TEST SCHEDULING

The Red Cell Fragility Test (497/FRG) must be scheduled with the laboratory at Abbott Northwestern Hospital 24 hours in advance. Testing is run Monday – Thursday only, 8:00am – Noon. Specimens for Red Cell Fragility testing must be received within 2 hours of collection. A Normal control must also be drawn and sent with the test sample.

To schedule a Red Cell Fragility Test, please call 612-863-1910.

❖ UPCOMING CBC CHANGES

Per AMA and CMS guidelines, the Complete Blood Count must now also be offered without the platelet count. The provider order would need to indicate that the platelet should not be included. To accommodate this, effective March 1, 2004, Allina Medical Laboratories will have two (2) additional complete cell count tests available. (See the chart below for CMS approved panels)

Please note: A CBC order or a CBC/Diff order will include the platelet.

All components of a panel must meet medical necessity.

Current Panels	As of 3-1-04
CBC	CPT 85027
CBC no PLT	HCPCS G0307
CBC/Diff	CPT 85025
CBC/Diff no PLT	HCPCS G0306

Allina Medical Laboratories clinical requisitions are being updated to reflect this change. A supply will be printed and distributed to each of our clients. Please discard all old clinical requisitions and put the new updated supply into use on March 1, 2004.

MICROBIOLOGY

❖ RSV RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING NOW DONE IN HOUSE

Effective immediately, Allina Medical Laboratories is performing RSV Rapid Antigen testing in-house. Specimen requirements and test information is included below.

Test Name	RSV, Rapid Antigen
Test Number/Code	6533/ RSV
CPT Code	87899
List Price	\$47.70
Days Performed	Monday - Sunday
Turnaround Time	1 Day
Specimen Type	Nasopharyngeal swab in M4-RT or M4 Transport Media Nasopharyngeal washing
Container	NP Minitip swab in M4-RT or M4 Transport Media Nasopharyngeal washing in sterile container
Processing	Submit entire specimen
Transport	Refrigerated. Swab within 48 hr. Washings within 24 hr.
Special Instructions	Swabs may be transported in saline. Unacceptable: dry swab.
Test Performance	Nasopharyngeal swab: 93% sensitivity; 93% specificity. Nasopharyngeal washing: 89% sensitivity; 100% specificity

RSV DFA testing is still available through AML. Please use the following chart to determine which RSV test methodology best meets your needs and marks your requisitions accordingly.

RSV Rapid Antigen versus RSV Direct FA

	RSV Rapid Antigen	RSV Direct FA
Test Code	RSV	RSD
Methodology	Immunochromatographic assay	Direct fluorescent antibody
Sensitivity	N/P swab: 93% N/P washing: 89%	>90%
Specificity	N/P swab: 93% N/P washing: 100%	>98%
Performing Lab	Allina Medical Laboratories	Viromed
Testing	Performed 24 hr/day, 7 days/week. May be ordered Stat.	Mon-Sat: Performed at 9 am and 4 pm Sun: Performed at 2 pm Additional time required for transport to Viromed.

SENDOUTS

❖ CHOLINESTERASE, PLASMA & RBC ORDERED WITH GLUCOSE-6-PD SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

When a Cholinesterase, Plasma & RBC, and a Glucose-6-PD are both ordered on a patient, the specimen requirements are three (3) EDTA tubes. One of these tubes must be spun and separated for the plasma portion of the Cholinesterase test.

The tubes for these individual tests *cannot be shared*.

If only one EDTA plasma and one EDTA whole blood tube is received when these two tests are ordered, Quest Diagnostics, the testing laboratory, will cancel a portion of the testing as QNS.

A comment has been added to the AML on line Collection Manual for each of these tests. The Processing section has been revised with an additional comment reading "NOTE: tubes drawn for this test cannot be shared with other tests. Please add this comment to your copy of the 2003 AML Collection Manual as a reminder to staff.

❖ CADMIUM EXPOSURE SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT CHANGE

MedTox Laboratories has notified us of a specimen requirement change for the ***Cadmium Exposure***, 2165/CEX.

This test requires a 10-ml aliquot of random urine to be submitted in an acid washed container. After collection of the specimen, the pH of the specimen must be adjusted to 7.0 – 8.0. The pH should be adjusted dropwise with 1N NaOH until the desired pH is reached. Once the pH has been adjusted, the aliquot should be immediately frozen.

This change in specimen requirements has been made in our on line Collection Manual. Please make a note of this in your copy of the 2003 AML Collection Manual.

❖ CORTISOL, FREE 24 HOUR URINE SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT CHANGE

Quest Diagnostics has changed the specimen requirements for the Cortisol, Free 24 Hr Urine (test 74/CFU on page C-22 of your 2003 AML Collection Manual). Effective immediately, this specimen collection requires NO PRESERVATIVE. Please change the container for this test to "24 hr Urine Container w/o preservative.

Please note this specimen requirement change in your AML Collection Manual.

❖ VITAMIN D, 25-HYDROXY TEST CHANGES

In response to vendor assay issues, Quest Diagnostics has made *immediate* changes in methodology and reference range for the Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy test.

Methodology:

Old: Immunochemiluminometric assay

New: Radioimmunoassay

Reference Range:

Old: 10-68 ng/ml

New: Adult: 9-54 ng/ml

Pediatric: 13-16 ng/ml

In order to accommodate this change in reference range, each time this test is ordered you will see your order cancelled and credited by AML. The test will be resultated as an MSO (Miscellaneous Send Out) with the appropriate reference range added to the report. There will be no change in the test pricing.

❖ MICROSPORIDIUM STAIN NOW BEING SENT OUT

Effective immediately, Allina Medical Laboratories is no longer performing the Microsporidium Stain in house. This test is being referred to the University of Minnesota.

The in house test code for this test (MIS/6543) has been inactivated. If you would like to order this test, please request a Miscellaneous SendOut (MSO/994) and specify a Microsporidium Stain.

SUPPLIES

❖ NEW DARK URINE ALIQUOT BOTTLE SUPPLIED

Several 24-hour urine tests require that the submitted specimen be protected from light. In order to help make this easier for you, we are now providing you with dark urine aliquot bottles that will protect the specimen from exposure to light.

❖ COURIER BAGS

During the past several weeks, we experienced a continuing backorder of the Courier Transport Bags from our supplier. We have now received our supplies and all backorders should be filled. If you are still in need of additional supplies, please contact our Supply Department at 612-863-4678 Option 2.

During the time of the backorder, in order to have bags available, some Courier Transport Bags were reused and redistributed. If you are a client who uses courier barcodes (MedStat Couriers), and you received re-issued bags that have bar codes already on them, please make sure that you either cross off the old barcode, or cover it with your new one. If the old barcode is re-used, the tracking will be lost.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

❖ ORDER PLACEMENT AND TURN AROUND TIME

Supplies that are used to perform tests at Allina Medical Laboratories are supplied to you at no charge. Supplies can be ordered on-line at our website, by using our AML Supply Request Form, or by calling our Supplies Department.

Whichever method you use to submit your supply order, please be sure to include a contact name and phone number so that our supply staff can reach you in the case that they have a question about your order. We will also use this contact name as an Attention line on the supply delivery.

Our general supply order turn around time is 3 to 5 days. If you have not received your order within 7 days, please call our Supplies Department at 612-863-4678 Option 2 to check the status of your order.

HELP US HELP YOU

❖ PACKAGING OF SPECIMENS FOR COURIER TRANSPORT TO AML

When packaging patient specimens for courier transport to AML, please follow the guidelines below. Following these guidelines will allow AML staff to more efficiently process your clinic's specimens.

Patient Specimen Packaging: One patient/One bag

- Place all specimens with the same storage requirements together in a small specimen biohazard bag
- Fold requisition for this patient into quarters. Place it into the outside pouch of the specimen bag with the patient name showing

Packaging for the Courier: All single bags into a large bag

Place all single patient bags with the same storage requirements into a large Allina Courier Transport bag.

- Refrigerated clinical specimens should all be in one courier bag
- Room Temperature clinical specimens should all be in one courier bag with no other specimen types included
- Cytology (pap) specimens should be in their own courier bag with no other specimen types included
- Histology (tissue) specimens should be in their own courier bag with no other specimen types included

If MedStat Inc provides your courier service to AML, place one barcode label on the outside of the large courier bag (not one on each individual specimen bag)

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories