



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES  
APRIL 2006  
UPDATE**

**ANDROLOGY**

- Andrology Policy Change

**BILLING AND COMPLIANCE**

- We are Moving!
- Insurance Adjustment Requests

**CHEMISTRY / IMMUNOLOGY**

- Amylase, Timed Urine Panels Discontinued
- C-Peptide Testing Brought In-House
- MUMPS Testing Information

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- Role of the Wet Prep in the Diagnosis of Vaginitis

**CYTOLOGY**

- AML Cytology Laboratory Introduces The Thinprep® Imaging System
- Cytology Specimen Labeling
- Pap Smears on Patients With Two Cervices

**SENDOUTS**

- Factor 13 and Von Willebrand CIEP Update
- CA 19-9 and Ca 27.29 Specimen Requirement Changes
- Upcoming Ca 15-3 Change
- New Test, H pylori IgM Antibody, Orderable

**HELP US HELP YOU**

- Move Information

## ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE APRIL 2006

### ANDROLOGY

#### ❖ ANDROLOGY POLICY CHANGE

In an effort to strengthen our identification protocol, effective immediately, the AML Andrology laboratory will require male patients to physically present their semen sample along with photo identification. This procedural change will only affect samples collected for the purposes of sperm *cryopreservation or artificial insemination*. Samples for diagnostic testing, such as semen analysis, will not require photo identification at this time.

In the event the male partner is unable to bring the specimen to the Andrology Laboratory, the female partner may do so. She must, however, also bring a form that the male partner has signed in front of a notary indicating that the specimen provided is his and that he acknowledges that the female will be bringing the specimen to the Laboratory. This form is available at the Andrology Laboratory and can be obtained by contacting us at 612-863-4115.

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

### BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

#### ❖ WE ARE MOVING!

Effective May 1, 2006, the AML Billing Department will be located at the Allina commons. Please update your records to reflect our move. If you need to contact our department, refer to the information below. The new address is for the **billing department only**. The laboratory will remain in its current location at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

Mailing address:  
Allina Health System  
P.O. Box 43  
Mail Route 10409  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-0043

Phone: (612) 262-4000  
Fax: (612) 262-5965

We are in the process of updating our billing forms with this new address and phone/fax information.

## ❖ INSURANCE ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS

When making billing corrections, it is important that we (AML Billing) understand exactly how you would like us to be each patient's labs. When a billing correction is requested, we need the most accurate and up to date information you have, and to receive that information in the clearest format as possible. The AML Insurance Adjustment Form lists all of the information needed in a clear and organized format. Utilizing this form makes it easy for our billing staff to determine which patient you want AML to change the billing for, which tests, what date of service (DOS), and which insurance, if any, should be billed.

For your convenience, at the end of this newsletter, we have included a copy of the AML Insurance Adjustment Form, a copy of the form indicating what information is required in each field, and also an Insurance Adjustment Form Instructions document.

If you have any questions regarding use of this form, please contact AML Billing at: 612-775-1900, or after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 612-262-4000.

## CHEMISTRY

### ❖ AMYLASE, TIMED URINE PANELS DISCONTINUED

Effective immediately, the following panels have been made non-orderable:

33/AM2	<i>Amylase, 2 Hour Urine</i>
36/AMU	<i>Amylase, 24 Hour Urine</i>

For any timed urine amylase request, the following panel should be ordered:

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>AMYLASE, TIMED URINE</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	29/ATU
<b>Collect:</b>	10 ml Timed Urine
<b>Container:</b>	Plastic Urine Container
<b>Processing:</b>	Submit Aliquot or Entire Specimen
<b>Transport/Stability:</b>	Refrigerated
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	AML
<b>Days Set Up:</b>	M - Su
<b>Expected TAT:</b>	1 Day
<b>Ref. Ranges:</b>	See Report
<b>Collection/ Processing Details:</b>	Record Volume and number of hours of collection on request and aliquot.
<b>Method:</b>	Enzymatic
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	82150

## ❖ C-PEPTIDE TESTING BROUGHT IN-HOUSE

On Tuesday, April 11, 2006 Allina Medical Laboratories began performing C-Peptide testing in-house. C-Peptide is performed in Chemistry on the Roche Elecsys.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>C-Peptide</b>
Test Code:	CPE / 265
Days Performed:	Tuesday, Thursday, Sat or Sun
Turn Around Time:	2 Days
Specimen Type:	Serum (Heparinized Plasma also acceptable)
Processing:	Spin, Separate and Freeze
Container:	Plastic Aliquot Vial labeled as Serum or Heparinized Plasma
Reference Range:	1.03 - 4.89 ng/mL
Stability:	24 Hours when stored at 2 - 8°C, 30 Days when stored at -20°C
CPT Code:	84681
List Price:	\$35.00

C-peptide has a variety of uses including diagnosis of factitious hypoglycemia, as a marker for residual pancreatic tissue after pancreatectomy, monitoring progress after pancreas or islet cell transplantation, diagnosis of insulinoma, and distinguishing between type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Some investigators have found that a low C-peptide at diagnosis (along with islet cell antibodies) is a useful marker to predict insulin dependence. In cases of insulinoma, C-peptide measurement may be used to detect metastasis and response to therapy.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this message, please contact your AML Account Representative.

## ❖ MUMPS TESTING INFORMATION

Due to the recent mumps outbreak in Iowa, we have received increasing numbers of phone calls requesting information on testing for mumps. Information has been included below for the Mumps IgM, Mumps Immune Status (IgG) and Mumps Culture. These tests are not available on a STAT basis. Please note the days of testing and the TAT in the included information.

**Test Name:** ***MUMPS IMMUNE STATUS***  
**Test Number:** 524/MPG  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum  
**Container:** Serum Separator Tube (SST)  
**Processing:** Spin  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerated  
**Alternate Names:** Mumps IGG, Mumps Immunity  
**Performing Lab:** AML  
**Days Set Up:** T/Th/Sat (effective 4/15/06 until end of outbreak, then T/F)  
**Expected TAT:** 2 days  
**Ref. Ranges:** See Report  
**CPT Codes:** 86735

**Test Name:** ***MUMPS IGM***  
**Test Number:** 523/MPM  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum  
**Container:** Serum Separator Tube (SST)  
**Processing:** Spin  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerated  
**Performing Lab:** ViroMed  
**Days Set Up:** T/Th \*ViroMed is currently in the process of determining whether or not additional runs need to be added due to the recent outbreak.  
**Expected TAT:** 2-4 days  
**CPT Codes:** 86735-90

**Test Name:** ***MUMPS CULTURE***  
**Test Number:** 994/MSO  
**Collect:** Buccal Swab and Urine in a sterile container  
**Container:** UTM (buccal swab) and Sterile Container (urine)  
**Processing:**  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerated  
**Performing Lab:** MN Dept of Health  
**Expected TAT:** 14 Days  
**Ref. Ranges:** See Report  
**Collection/  
Processing Details:** To obtain the buccal swab, massage the area between the right rear upper molar and the cheek until a sufficient amount of saliva is generated and then swab the area.

**Note:** Although the State Department of Health does not charge for the testing there is a nominal handling fee that must be paid.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### ❖ ROLE OF THE WET PREP IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF VAGINITIS

Save this date! On September 19, 2006, AML will hold our next continuing education offering. Jo-Ellen Abraham, MS, MT(ASCP, Microbiology Technical Consultant for AML, will present the "Role of the Wet Prep in the Diagnosis of Vaginitis". This program will include a discussion of the wet prep procedure and it's relation to the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis and Trichomonas and yeast vaginitis.

This event will be held in the Heart Lung Conference Hall at United Hospital in Saint Paul. Registration and a light supper will be from 6-6:30pm, and the one hour presentation will begin at 6:30pm. Registration materials will be mailed in August, and will also be available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories) under the Continuing Education link.

## CYTOLOGY

### ❖ AML CYTOLOGY LABORATORY INTRODUCES THE THINPREP® IMAGING SYSTEM

On Wednesday, April 12, Allina Cytology implemented the ThinPrep® Imaging System (Imager), an FDA approved computer-assisted screening system for use with the ThinPrep® Pap test. The AML Cytology Laboratory is the first laboratory in the state of Minnesota to acquire the Imager system. Historically, similar labs have shown an increase in turnaround time while staff is trained and begins to work with the new technology. The training for the AML Cytotechnologists started on Monday, April 10, and continues this week. The training has impacted current screening and will continue to increase turnaround time for a while. We will do everything to maintain as short a turnaround time as possible, perhaps 10-12 days, and request your patience while the cytology staff adjusts to the new system.

The ThinPrep® Pap test has proven to be significantly more effective than the conventional Pap smear for the detection of low-grade and more severe lesions in a variety of patient populations. The Imager further enhances that improvement by combining advanced screening technology with human interpretive expertise. The combination of the ThinPrep® Pap test and the Imager allows our lab to provide Imaging-Directed Cytology (IDC), a breakthrough process that achieves a higher level of certainty in cervical screening.

With the IDC process, the patient's sample is first processed using the ThinPrep's patented Controlled Membrane Transfer™ technology, which produces clear, easy-to-read slides. The slides are stained using a special, preformulated stain that allows measurement of cellular DNA content.

The slides then move to the screening process, in which the Imager scans every cell and cluster on the patient slide and, using sophisticated computer algorithms, identifies "areas of interest" for cytotechnologist review. This dual screening approach has been shown to increase sensitivity and specificity over manual screening, further reducing the rate of false negatives. Every slide is still reviewed by a registered cytotechnologist and then reviewed by a cytopathologist when indicated.

With the addition of the ThinPrep Imaging System®, the Allina Cytology Laboratory utilizes the latest technology assuring the most accurate results for our patients. To learn more about the Imager or Image-Directed Cytology, please contact Dr. Carol Larson, Director of the Department of Cytology, at 612-863-7537.

## ❖ **CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN LABELING**

Cytology specimens require a minimum of two patient identifiers on each specimen submitted.

On ThinPrep Pap vials and containers such as urine cups, it is preferred to have the patient's full name, Social Security/Medical Record/Epic ID number, and date of birth at the minimum. For clinics that assign privacy "codes" the code and patient's date of birth are required. Make sure to screw the lids for the ThinPrep Pap vials back on tightly. We are receiving several every day in which the label is almost impossible, if not impossible, to read. The alcohol that is in the vial removes the ink from the labels. We have to reject vials when we cannot read the labels.

On slides that are submitted we require ***in pencil on the frosted end of the slide*** the patient's last name and date of birth. If different sites on the same patient are submitted, also indicate the site (Rt Thyroid, L Thyroid) and indicate "Air" for air-dried or "Fix" for fixed slides.

## ❖ **PAP SMEARS ON PATIENTS WITH TWO CERVICES**

AML is committed to giving the best service we can to you and your patients. If you have a patient with two cervixes and you collect a pap smear from each cervix, please follow the instructions below to make sure that the specimens are properly processed and reported:

- Label the ThinPrep® vial from the right cervix as ***"right"***.
- Label the ThinPrep® vial from the left cervix as ***"left"***.
- **Order each specimen individually and indicate on order "Right Cervix" or "Left Cervix" and match the order with the corresponding vial.**

There will be two charges, one for each ThinPrep® specimen.

## **SENDOUTS**

### ❖ **FACTOR 13 and VON WILLEBRAND CIEP UPDATE**

AML has received the following notification from the University of Minnesota Physician's Laboratory:

Effective immediately, the University of MN will no longer offer the Factor 13 Assay (F13), however, they will continue to offer Factor 13 Antigen (F13A).

The Von Willebrand CIEP or Multimer (3556/VWC) will no longer be performed at the U of M. This test will be referred to Mayo Medical Laboratories instead and will be forwarded by the U of MN pathology if appropriate.

## ❖ CA 19-9 AND CA 27.29 SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT CHANGES

AML has received notification from Quest Diagnostics of specimen collection, processing and transport, turn-around-time and methodology changes for the Ca19-9 and Ca 27.29 tests. Please review the following updated information for these two tests and make note of the changes in your AML Collection Manual:

**Test Name:** CA 19-9  
**Test Number:** 259/C19  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum  
**Alternate Collect:** 1ml for Plain Red /separated and sent in Plastic Transfer Vial  
**Container:** Serum Separator Tube (SST)  
**Processing:** Spin  
**Transport/Stability:** Room Temp: 5 Days; Refrig: 7 Days; Frozen: 1 Year  
**Alternate Names:** CARBOHYDRATE ANTIGEN 19-9  
**Performing Lab:** Quest Diagnostics (4698)  
**Days Set Up:** M - F  
**Expected TAT:** 2 Days  
**Ref. Ranges:** 0 - 36 U/ml  
**Collection/ Processing Details:** Rejected if Grossly Hemolyzed.  
(Usually Gastric and Pancreatic Marker)  
Should not be used as a screening test.  
**Method:** Immunoassay  
**CPT Codes:** 86301-90

**Test Name:** CA 27.29  
**Test Number:** 4852/C27  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum  
**Alternate Collect:** 1ml for Plain Red /separated and sent in Plastic Transfer Vial  
**Container:** Serum Separator Tube (SST)  
**Processing:** Spin  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerate: 7 Days; Room Temp: 5 Days; Frozen: 1 year  
**Performing Lab:** Quest Diagnostics (29493)  
**Days Set Up:** M - F  
**Expected TAT:** 2 Days  
**Ref. Ranges:** 0 - 38 U/ml  
**Collection/ Processing Details:** NO HEMOLYSIS  
**Method:** Bayer Centaur ICMA  
**CPT Codes:** 86300-90

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact your AML Account Representative.

## ❖ UPCOMING CA 15-3 CHANGE

AML has received notice that effective May 8, 2006 Quest Diagnostics vendor will be changing methods for the CA 15-3. Because the concentration of CA 15-3 in any given specimen can vary due to difference in assay methods and reagent specificity, values from different methods cannot be used interchangeably.

Because of this variance due to methodology, Quest is offering a test - **CA15-3 with Rebaseline**. If you have a patient you are monitoring with the current CA 15-3 test, have them drawn and order this rebaselining test as an MSO/994 so you can receive both results (old and new methods). ***This test must be ordered as an MSO - Do not order the standard Ca 15-3 - 3351/C15, or you will not receive both results.***

Only the standard C15-3 test will be charged. There will be no additional cost for the second (rebaseline) result.

This rebaselining test will be available from May 8 to July 31, 2006 ONLY.

## ❖ NEW TEST, H PYLORI IGM ANTIBODY, ORDERABLE

H. Pylori IGM antibody is now an orderable test, and has been added to our AML on line Collection Manual

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>HELICOBACTER PYLORI ANTIBODIES, IGM</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	<b>7430/N30</b>
<b>Collect:</b>	1 ml Serum
<b>Peds Collect:</b>	0.5 ml Serum
<b>Container:</b>	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
<b>Processing:</b>	Spin
<b>Transport/Stability:</b>	Refrigerated; 1 week Frozen 1 month; Room Temp: 8 hours
<b>Alternate Names:</b>	H. pylori Aby
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	Quest Diagnostics (#34123)
<b>Days Set Up:</b>	T - F
<b>Expected TAT:</b>	1 - 2 days
<b>Ref. Ranges:</b>	Negative
<b>Collection/ Processing Details:</b>	Plain serum tube is acceptable but spin, separate and send in plastic transfer vial.
<b>Method:</b>	Enzyme Immunoassay
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	86677-90

## HELP US HELP YOU

### ❖ MOVE INFORMATION

Effective May 1, many of AML's staffmembers will be moved to new office locations in the Allina Commons. Two AML Account Representatives will be affected by this move. Please note the following new phone numbers:

Lisa R Johnson	612-262-5068
Kay Zemlicka	612-262-5067

The AML Directory of Services is in the process of being updated with the new contact numbers for all staff affected by this move. The updated listing will be available in the General Information section of the Directory of services, available on our web site 5/1.

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

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