



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
FEBRUARY 2009
UPDATE**

- BILLING AND COMPLIANCE**
 - Viral Culture Reflex Charge Update
- CHEMISTRY**
 - Microalbumin, Random Urine Specimen Transport Container Change
 - Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) Testing Locations
- CONTINUING EDUCATION**
 - Save the Date!
- COURIER SERVICES**
 - Upcoming Courier Changes
- CYTOLOGY**
 - ThinPrep® Specimen Container Reminder
- HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION**
 - Band Cell Reference Range Note
- MOLECULAR**
 - Methylene tetrahydrofolate Reductase Gene Mutation CPT Code Change
 - FDA Approved HCV RT-PCR Viral Load (2242/QHC) Methodology in Place
- SENDOUTS**
 - AFP Triple Screen Testing to Be Discontinued
 - T3 Reverse No Longer Available at MML
 - Amiodarone (229/AMI) Temporarily Sent To MedTox
 - Sedative Hypnotic Panel (3716/SHP) CPT Code Update
 - Osteocalcin Update
- SUPPLIES**
 - Potential “No Vacuum” Tubes Distributed
- WEB SITE**
 - CEU Tapes Available for Checkout
 - Supply Catalog Change
- HELP US HELP YOU**
 - Keeping Your Physician List Current

ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2009

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ Viral Culture Reflex Charge Update

When it is necessary to add additional shell vials or organism identification to Viral Cultures, additional charges for these tests will apply

4724/VRP Viral Culture Respiratory

Additional charge for shell vial \$41.00, CPT 87254 on sources: Bronchoalveolar Lavage, Bronchial Wash, Esophagus and Tracheal Secretions.

7635/VGC Viral Culture General

Additional charge for shell vial \$41.00, CPT 87254 on sources: Amniocentesis, Conjunctiva, Eye and Vitreous.

Viral Identification

If the Shell Vial is positive the organism will be identified by various techniques – more than one may be used on a single sample. In this case, there will be an additional Virus Identification charge(s) of \$42.40, CPT 87253. This may especially be seen with the 4724/VRP, Viral Culture Respiratory, when the isolated organism may be Influenza, Parainfluenza or Adenovirus.

CHEMISTRY

❖ Microalbumin, Random Urine Specimen Transport Container Change

Effective immediately, the recommended transport container for the Microalbumin, Random Urine (630/MAR) is an AML False-Bottom Transfer Vial. This change has been made in an attempt to ensure that the specimen will not leak during transport. The AML Collection Manual, found at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories, has been updated to reflect this change.

If you have any questions in regards to this change, please contact your AML Account Representative.

Test Name: MICRO ALBUMIN, RANDOM URINE
Test Number: 630/MAR
Collect: Random Urine - Sterile Container
Container: Sterile Urine Container
Processing: *Pour urine into AML- False Bottom Transfer Vial*
Transport/Stability: Refrigerated
Performing Lab: AML - CM
Days Set Up: Daily
Expected TAT: 1 Day
Ref. Ranges: <30 mg/g Creat
Collection/
Processing Details: DO NOT FREEZE

❖ Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) Testing Locations

Effective immediately, Mercy, Unity and United Hospitals will discontinue testing for Carbamazepine, Gentamicin, Phenobarbital, Theophylline and Tobramycin. These tests will be dispatched to the Allina Medical Laboratories Central Lab at Abbott Northwestern to be run.

If stat testing for any of these tests is required, the specimens must be directed to ANW for expedited testing and reporting of results.

If you have any questions in regards to this change, please contact your AML Account Representative.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

❖ Save The Date!

Dr. Greg Plotnikoff, Medical Director of Abbott Northwestern Hospital's Penny George Institute for Health and Healing, is a board-certified internist and pediatrician who has received international honors for his work in cross-cultural and integrative medicine.

On April 7th, Dr. Plotnikoff will speak on one of our fastest growing AML performed tests - Vitamin D. We brought this test in house in July, 2008, and currently AML performs > 4000 assays/month. Come and hear why this is such a hot topic in healthcare.

2009 Update of the Vitamin D Controversy

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Allina Commons Minnesota Room

Allina employee \$20

Non-Allina employee \$30

A light supper will be provided. Registration materials will be distributed soon and will also be available on our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories

COURIER SERVICES

❖ Upcoming Courier Changes

Allina Hospitals and Clinics will be consolidating all of our outsourced courier work to a single vendor, Dynamex. Phase I of this transition will begin on Monday, February 23, 2009, and will include only the unscheduled and on request services. Services provided by Allina Transportation will not be impacted by this change.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

It is our goal to continue to provide the convenient, reliable courier service that you have come to expect with minimal changes. Our policies on unscheduled courier services have not changed. If our courier service has a scheduled run in your area, you will still be able to be added to that run as an "On Request" pick up at no additional charge.

If your scheduled or On Request pick up does not meet your needs, you may continue to call Allina Medical Laboratories Customer Service Monday – Friday to request an urgent pick up. If you prefer, you may also call your own courier to transport your specimen.

If you request urgent courier service through AML, we will contact Dynamex to request a RUSH pick up for your specimens. Dynamex RUSH service guarantees a two hour service in the metro area (time from call placed to Dynamex to specimen drop at requested facility). **Please note that if the Dynamex driver has to wait more than seven minutes, there will be an additional \$0.50/minute charge. The charge for this pick up will be billed back to you on your monthly invoice.**

How Do I Place an Unscheduled Courier Request?

To place a request for an unscheduled courier pick up through AML, please contact customer service at 612-863-4678. Please provide:

- Your location
- Number of packages to be picked up (Number of biohazard bags, not number of containers)
- Time specimen is ready to be pick up
- Service level (Rush or On Request)
- Specimen type or Test requested
- Patient Name

How Will My Specimens be Tracked?

Your specimens will continue to be carefully tracked. Time of pick up will be captured using the driver's Nextel phone, and a digital time stamp will be assigned. Delivery time stamp will be captured when the specimen arrives at AML. We are still working out the details on how this will be adapted for the future scheduled runs, so for now, please keep your AML courier log book.

How Will I Recognize the Dynamex Drivers?

Dynamex drivers will all be identified with a Dynamex photo ID badge. They will be wearing a blue oxford shirt with navy blue slacks and a Dynamex jacket.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR PATIENTS?

We know that prompt, reliable courier service is essential to assuring our pre-analytic quality as well as our customer satisfaction. Dynamex has a proven track record in providing quality courier service to healthcare organizations. We will work with Dynamex to continue to meet that goal for you and your patients with a seamless transition.

Phase II: Scheduled outsourced courier work will transition sometime in April.

Please contact your AML Account Representative with any questions.

CYTOLOGY

❖ ThinPrep® Specimen Container Reminder

The AML Cytology Department Prep Room staff has noticed that they are receiving an increasing number of ThinPrep® vials that are leaking during transport because the lids are not being properly secured following specimen collection.

Once the specimen has been collected, the container lid should be replaced and tightened **securely** by getting the torque line on the cap as near to the torque line on the vial as possible. If the lid is not securely tightened, solution leaking from the vial may remove the print from the patient label. If this occurs and AML can not determine proper patient identification, the specimen will be rejected and will need to be recollected.

If you have an incorrect label on a vial, remove the incorrect label or black out the incorrect patient's name before you place the correct label on the vial. ***If this is not done, the vial may be rejected due to questionable patient ID.***

Thank you for your help with this issue.

HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION

❖ Band Cell Reference Range Note

In our December 2008 Update client newsletter new Hematology Reference Ranges were shared. The Band Cell percentages were adjusted to have a lower reference range from 4-10% and an upper range of 11-18% dependent upon the patient's age.

Since the distribution of that information, it has been determined that the lower range for all ages will be reduced to zero. Until that change occurs in our LIS system, you may receive a clinically insignificant "L" flag if the percentage of Band Cells reported is less than the current stated lower limit (between 4 and 10% dependent upon age).

MOLECULAR

❖ Methylene tetrahydrofolate Reductase Gene (5919/MTL) CPT Code Change

Due to a methodology change, effective immediately, the CPT codes for the ***Methylene tetrahydrofolate Reductase Gene (5919/MTL)*** will be changing. There will be no change to reporting, specimen requirements or pricing at this time.

Test Name:	Methylene tetrahydrofolate Reductase Gene Mutation
Test Number:	5919/MTL
Previous CPT	
Codes:	83891; 83892; 83896 x 5; 83903; 83912
New CPT Codes:	83891, 83896 X 5, 83908 and 83912

❖ FDA Approved HCV RT-PCR Viral Load (2242/QHC) Methodology in Place

The AML Molecular Laboratory has completed validation of a new FDA approved methodology for the HCV RT-PCR Viral Load test.

The components (primers and probes) of the assay have not changed and internal validation studies have shown that the performance of the FDA approved test is essentially identical to the previously used test; therefore, rebaselining of patients is not necessary.

There is no change to CPT code or specimen requirements. The only changes are an improved Linear Range and Lower Limit of Detection.

Current Linear Range: 20-15,000,000 IU/mL.
New Linear Range: 43-69,000,000 IU/mL

Current Lower Limit of Detection: 20 IU/mL
New Lower Limit of Detection: 18 IU/mL

SENDOUTS

❖ AFP Triple Screen Testing to Be Discontinued

Genzyme Genetics has shared that effective February 28, 2009 they will no longer offer the **AFP Triple Screen (6770/AF3)** maternal screening test. According to Genzyme's communication, research and professional society guidelines no longer include stand alone triple screen marker tests as part of reasonable standard of care for patients.

The **Maternal Quad Screen (4343/4SB)** is the recommended replacement test as it provides a higher detection rate for aneuploidy and neural tube defects.

Test Name:	MATERNAL QUAD SCREEN
Test Number:	4343/4SB
Collect:	3.0 ml Serum
Container:	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
Processing:	Spin
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated
Alternate Names:	Quadruple Marker Test, AFP4, Genzyme Quad Screen
Performing Lab:	Genzyme Genetics (325)
Days Set Up:	Daily
Expected TAT:	2 - 3 Days
Ref. Ranges:	See Report
Collection/ Processing Details:	Prefer collect in 8.5 ml SST; Please completely answer all questions on form or in Excellian. Ultra sound is preferred dating method. Testing includes: Biochemical quantitation of AFP, HCG, Estriol, Inhibin. Optimum testing dates are 16.0 weeks to 18.0 weeks but testing is valid from 15 weeks 0 days to 21 weeks 6 days.
Method:	Multiple
CPT Codes:	82105-90; 82677-90; 84702-90; 86336-90

❖ T3 Reverse No Longer Available at MML

Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) has announced that due to problems with reagents, they are no longer offering T3 (Triiodothyronine), Reverse, Serum testing.

This test is available at Quest Diagnostics, and any specimens for T3 Reverse testing received at AML will be forwarded to Quest for analysis.

Due to the change in laboratories, this test must be ordered as an MSO (Miscellaneous Send Out). Orders received electronically will be cancelled and reordered as an MSO. The AML Collection Manual has been updated to reflect this (see below).

Test Name: T3, REVERSE
Test Number: 994/MSO
Collect: 1 ml Serum - Plain Red
Peds Collect: 0.5 ml Plain Red
Container: Screw Cap Transfer Vial
Processing: Spin and Separate
Transport/Stability: Refrigerated: Stable 5 Days; Frozen; Stable 1 year; Ambient: 16 hours.
Alternate Names: Triiodothyronine, Reverse
Performing Lab: Quest Diagnostics (967)
Days Set Up: T - Sa
Expected TAT: 2 - 5 Days
Ref. Ranges: 0.18 - 0.51 nmol/L; 11.7 - 33.2 ng/ml
Collection/
Processing Details: If SST is drawn please transfer to screw cap vial before freezing and transport.
Method: RIA [Non-FDA approved method]

❖ Amiodarone (229/AMI) Temporarily Sent To MedTox

Due to quality control technical issues at Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML), they are temporarily unable to perform Amiodarone testing on site. All specimens received at MML for this test are being forwarded to MedTox Laboratories.

In order to expedite test results for your patients, Allina Medical Laboratories will be sending all specimens for Amiodarone testing directly to MedTox during this time.

As a result of the need to use an alternative lab, any orders for a 229/AMI will be cancelled and re-ordered as a 994/MSO to facilitate entry of the results received from MedTox.

Test Name: AMIODARONE
Test Number: 229/AMI
Collect: 3.0 ml Frozen Serum - Plain Red
Peds Collect: 1.5 ml Frozen Serum - Plain Red
Alternate Collect: EDTA Plasma
Container: Screw Cap Transfer Vial
Processing: Spin, Separate and Freeze
Transport/Stability: Frozen; Refrigerated: OK; Ambient: <24 Hrs OK
Performing Lab: MedTox
Days Set Up: M - Sa
Expected TAT: 1 - 2 Days
Ref. Ranges: Amiodarone: 1.5 - 2.5 ug/ml; Desethylamiodarone: 1.5 - 2.5 ug/ml
Collection/
Processing Details: Do not draw sample sooner the 12 hours after the last dose (Trough Level). Test is NOT offered STAT.
Method: HPLC

❖ Sedative Hypnotic Panel (3716/SHP) CPT Code Update

Effective February 3, 2009, the CPT Codes for the Sedative Hypnotic Panel (3716/SHP) changed. This was a CPT code change only; there was *no change to price*.

Old CPT Code: 80101 x 6
New CPT Codes: 80101 x 5, 82055

❖ Osteocalcin Update

Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) has announced that effective immediately, they are performing Osteocalcin testing in house. Previously this test was forwarded on to Quest Diagnostics.

As a result of this testing lab change, there are also changes to the Days Set Up, Expected TAT, Reference Ranges, Method and List Price. These changes are detailed below:

Test Name:	OSTEOCALCIN, HUMAN
Test Number:	7877/OST
Old Performing Lab:	Quest Diagnostics via Mayo (91166)
New Performing Lab:	Mayo Medical Laboratories (80579)
Old Days Set Up:	3 Days / Week
New Days Set Up:	Monday - Saturday
Old Expected TAT:	3 - 6 Days
New Expected TAT:	2-3 Days
Old Ref. Ranges:	Adult M: 11.3- 35.4 ng/ml; Adult F: 7.2 - 27.9 ng/ml
New Ref. Ranges:	<18 Years: Not established ≥ 18 Years: 9-42 ng/mL
Old Method:	Immunoradiometric Assay
New Method:	Electrochemiluminescence Immunoassay
Old List Price:	\$60.50
New List Price:	\$65.40

SUPPLIES

❖ Potential “No Vacuum” Tubes Distributed

AML Supplies has received isolated reports of the Navy Blue (Red Label) tubes having no vacuum. The lot number involved with this concern is 728611 and the expiration date is Oct 2010.

Please review the Navy Blue (Red Label) tubes in your inventory. If you have supplies with the lot number and expiration date noted above, please place a supply order for replacement stock, and upon receipt of the new tubes, return the affected tubes to AML Supplies with your next courier. Include a note along with the tubes indicating “No Vacuum Recall”.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

WEB SITE

❖ CEU Tapes Available for Checkout


AML sponsors quarterly continuing education presentations in the Twin Cities area. For those unable to attend, we record each presentation and make the videotapes available for viewing.

Upcoming CEU event information as well as a listing of available tapes and a Tape Request Form can be found by clicking on the **Continuing Education Listings** link on our website homepage at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories.

❖ Supply Catalog Change

In order to help clients who would like to order larger quantities of supplies that are offered as an “each” item, we are making box/case quantity notes so that clients know how many “each” must be ordered in order to receive a full box.

An example of the 60ml formalin containers is included below. The item is still offered as an “each”, but if clients order 36, they will receive a full flat.



60 ml Formalin Vials

+ ADD TO CART

60 ml Formalin Vials Unit: each [Flat Quantity = 36]

i MORE INFO

HELP US HELP YOU

❖ Keeping Your Physician List Current

Please review your AML requisitions on a regular basis to make sure that we are maintaining a complete and accurate physician listing for your clinic. If any updates (removals or additions) are needed, please contact your Account Representative.

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories