



## ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES JUNE 2005 UPDATE

- BILLING AND COMPLIANCE**
  - CPT CODE UPDATES
  
- CHEMISTRY**
  - SPECIMEN STABILITY STUDY
  - IMMUNE STATUS TESTING INFORMATION
  - NEW CSF OLIGOCLONAL BAND TECHNIQUE
  - LACTOSE TOLERANCE TESTING
  - CHANGE IN GENERAL CHEMISTRY ANALYZERS AND REFERENCE INTERVALS
  
- CONTINUING EDUCATION**
  - CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH PACE ACCREDITATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!
  - UPCOMING CEU OFFERINGS – HOLD THESE DATES!
  
- CUSTOMER SERVICE**
  - SPECIMENS SENT TO AML IN ERROR
  
- HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION**
  - OSMOTIC FRAGILITY TESTING NOW BEING SENT OUT
  
- SENDOUTS**
  - SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT CHANGES
  - RAST PANELS NO LONGER AVAILABLE
  
- SUPPLIES**
  - VIRAL CULTURE COLLECTION MATERIAL CHANGE
  - CENTRIFUGE LOAN DATA BASE UPDATE
  
- WEB SITE**
  - SPUTUM COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS TRANSLATED
  
- HELP US HELP YOU**
  - HIGHLIGHTING ON PAPERWORK SUBMITTED TO AML
  - COMPLETE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR AFP TRIPLE SCREEN AND QUAD SCREEN

# ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE JUNE 2005

## BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

### ❖ CPT Code Updates

The following CPT code updates have been made to the AML on line collection manual, located at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). A complete listing of all updates made to the manual can be found by clicking on the '2005 Changes' link under the Collection Manual Changes header on the home page.

***Herpes Simplex Culture – Genital*** 6625/HER

CPT was: 87254-90 X2

CPT now: 87254

***Referral ID Only - Non-Urine*** 6713/IDN

CPT was: 87163

CPT now: **87077**

***Referral ID Only – Urine*** 6567/IDU

CPT was: 87088

CPT now: **87077**

***Referral ID & Susceptibility - Urine*** 6712/ISU

CPT was: 87088

CPT now: **87077**

***Referral ID & Susceptibility - Non –Urine*** 6714/ISN

CPT was: 87163

CPT now: **87077**

## CHEMISTRY

### ❖ SPECIMEN STABILITY STUDY

In an effort to validate, and extend where appropriate, the manufacturer supplied specimen stability guidelines for routine chemistry testing within Allina Medical Laboratories, a specimen stability study was performed.

The results of this study are included at the end of this newsletter in a chart titled Chemistry Specimen Stability. Please reference this chart when requesting add-on testing to a specimen already at AML. If an add-on request is received for a test and the age of the specimen exceeds the stability guidelines contained in the chart, the add-on request will be rejected.

This chart is also available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). Once at the home page, click on Collection Manual, Reference Guides, and then Chemistry Specimen Guidelines.

## ❖ IMMUNE STATUS TESTING INFORMATION

Have you ever wondered what test should be ordered when trying to determine a patient's immune status for Rubella (German Measles), Rubeola (Measles), Mumps or Varicella zoster (VZV or Herpes zoster)?

The presence of IgG indicates that a patient has had a prior infection or immunization and is immune to a particular disease. Immune status testing is performed at AML. The following three tests are available:

Rubella Antibody Immune Status	713/RUB
Rubeola Immune Status	1812/RBA
Varicella zoster Immune Assay	6647/VZV
Mumps Immune Status	524/MPG

If a current infection is suspected, IgM testing should be ordered. These specimens are forwarded to ViroMed for testing.

Rubella Antibody IgM	1719/RUM
Rubeola Antibody IgM	525/RBM
Varicella zoster Antibody IgM	304/VZM
Mumps IgM	523/MPM

## ❖ NEW CSF OLIGOCLONAL BAND TECHNIQUE

Effective immediately Allina Medical Labs will be performing Isoelectric Focusing (IEF) in place of High Resolution Electrophoresis for the detection of oligoclonal bands as part of a CSF protein study. Medical literature as well as studies performed in our laboratory indicates that IEF is a more sensitive test for the detection of oligoclonal bands in CSF. The reporting format, availability and turn around time for the CSF protein study test will remain the same. If you have any questions concerning this change in procedure, please call Jorge Ferreiro, M.D. at 612-863-4685.

## ❖ LACTOSE TOLERANCE TESTING

Effective July 1, 2005 Allina Medical Labs will discontinue performing the oral lactose tolerance test for lactase deficiency due to low usage and the lack of standardization of interpretation results. A blood test for evaluating lactose intolerance is available from Quest Diagnostic Laboratories. Supplies for the blood test must be ordered 2-3 business days in advance. Physicians interested in evaluating a patient for lactose intolerance using the breath test can order a Hydrogen Breath Test for Lactose Tolerance. This is available as a send out test. Supplies/kit for this test must be requested 3-5 business days in advance. To order supplies for either test, please contact Kathy Lambert, Technical Consultant at 612-863-5192.

## ❖ CHANGE IN GENERAL CHEMISTRY ANALYZERS AND REFERENCE INTERVALS

Effective July 18, 2005 Allina Medical Labs will be replacing our Beckman general chemistry instruments with Olympus chemistry instruments. This change will occur at Abbott Northwestern, United, Mercy, and Unity Hospitals. With this change, and the introduction of the electronic medical record, reference intervals for most chemistry tests will be standardized across all Allina Medical Laboratories.

You may notice a slight change in many of the reference intervals for tests which you order so please examine test results carefully and pay particular attention to the reference intervals. The proposed new reference ranges are in the process of being validated on the Olympus analyzers. Once this validation is process complete, they will be distributed to all sites and posted on our AML website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories).

If you have any questions concerning these changes, please call Laurel Krause, M.D. Vice President of Laboratory Services for Allina Health Systems at 612-863-4236 or Tom Massmann, Technical Consultant for Clinical Chemistry/Immunology, Allina Medical Laboratories at 612-863-4223.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### ❖ CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH PACE ACCREDITATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

*By: Bonny Paetznick, Directory, Reference Lab Services*

We all know how important Continuing Education is in maintaining both our knowledge and professionalism. To help meet this need, AML Reference Laboratory Services has begun offering regular CEU presentations for out customers. Since October of last year, we have offered the following:

- ***Molecular Diagnostics 101***, featuring Dr John Mendiola
- ***FISHing For Answers*** featuring Dr Kevin Stieglbauer and Billy Wyatt, along with ***Anatomic Case Studies*** featuring Sara Pietz
- ***Viral Hepatitis: An Overview for the Laboratorian***, featuring Dr Ken Batts

Couldn't make the presentations? We want to make it easy for you to get these valuable CEU's. We have created video tapes of each presentation and have these tapes available for you to check out.

Included in the tape packet are master copies of the presentation handouts, PACE Attendance Form and PACE Evaluation Form that may be copied and distributed to all who view the presentation. In order to receive PACE credits, a supervisor or manager must sign the attendance sheet. When the completed forms and video are returned to AML, PACE stickers will be sent to you for each viewer.

Check out our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories) for more information and copies of the check out sheets. Click on 'Continuing Education' under Featured Services, or you may contact Kay Zemlicka at 612-863-6602

## ❖ **UPCOMING CEU OFFERINGS – HOLD THESE DATES!**

We are pleased to announce that AML will be offering two additional CEU opportunities in 2005.

On September 8, 2005, from 2-9pm, AML is partnering with Patient Care Services of Mercy and Unity Hospitals to offer a Phlebotomy Seminar. This event will be held in the Mercy Hospital Auditorium, and topic will include:

- Phlebotomy Safety Survey: Are You Safe, Are your patients?
- What's New in Specimen Collection Standards? (NCCLS & CLSI)
- Minimizing Pre-analytical Errors in Specimen Collection
- Mastering Pediatric Phlebotomy

Our final CE offering of the year will be held on October 25, 2005 at United Hospital. This presentation will be on Cardiac Markers.

Watch for further information coming soon to your mailbox near you!

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

### ❖ **SPECIMENS SENT TO AML IN ERROR**

On occasion, AML receives specimens for other reference laboratories that have been sent to us in error.

To ensure that specimen integrity is not compromised and to identify the appropriate testing facility, we have implemented the following procedure when specimens are incorrectly sent to AML:

1. We will call your office to verify which lab should be performing the test, and alert you if testing can be performed at AML
2. If testing is to be done by AML, you will be requested to fax us a completed AML requisition
3. If you wish testing to be performed by an alternate facility, you must contact a courier to pick the specimen up at AML and deliver to the alternate testing laboratory.

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

## HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION

### ❖ OSMOTIC FRAGILITY TESTING NOW BEING SENT OUT

Effective immediately, Allina Medical Laboratories will no longer be performing Osmotic Fragility testing in house. This test will be sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Information regarding this test is included below:

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>Osmotic Fragility, RBC</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	994/MSO
<b>Specimen:</b>	5.0 ml Whole Blood
<b>Container:</b>	Lavender Top Tube (EDTA)
<b>Processing:</b>	Submit Tube Unspun
<b>Transport:</b>	Refrigerated
<b>Alternate Names:</b>	Red Cell Fragility, Osmotic Fragility
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	Mayo Medical Laboratories
<b>Days Set Up:</b>	Mon - Sat
<b>Ref. Ranges:</b>	Multiple Ranges, see report
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	
<b>CPT1:</b>	85557-90
<b>List Price:</b>	\$35.90
<b>Special Instructions:</b>	Specimen must reach testing laboratory within 72 hours of collection. Include a control specimen drawn at the same time from a normal, unrelated individual. Label clearly <b>normal control</b> . Indicate sex of control on tube(s) label. Specimens <b>cannot be frozen</b> .

## SENDOUTS

### ❖ SPECIMEN REQUIREMENT CHANGES

The following changes have been made to the AML on line collection manual, located at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). A complete listing of all updates made to the manual can be found by clicking on the '2005 Changes' link under the Collection Manual Changes header on the home page.

#### ***Aldolase***

#### ***21/ALD***

Current:	2ml serum, Spin separate and freeze immediately
New:	2 ml Serum * Frozen is preferred but specimen is stable 5 days refrigerated. Suggest spin, separate and freeze for optimum specimen integrity.

#### ***Celiac Disease Panel***

#### ***2980/CEL***

Current:	3 ml Serum, Plain Red
New:	3 ml serum

#### ***Beta 2 Microglobulins – CSF***

#### ***B2C/601***

Current:	2ml CSF, Refrigerated
New:	2ml CSF, Frozen. Reject if received thawed

## ❖ RAST PANELS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Due to a computer change at Quest Diagnostics, RAST panels are no longer orderable. All RAST testing must be ordered as individual tests.

To help you with this process, AML has updated our RAST ordering form which contains all available RAST tests. A copy of this form has been included with this newsletter, and is also available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). Once at the home page, click on Forms and then Allergen – RAST Form

Pads of these Allergen – RAST forms can also be ordered on via our on line Supply Catalog.

## SUPPLIES

### ❖ VIRAL CULTURE COLLECTION MATERIAL CHANGE

ViroMed Laboratories has informed us that effective immediately, they only supply the mini-tipped PurWrap swab for viral culture collection.

As a result, when you order Viral Culture Collection materials, a collection kit will contain:

- 1 – M4 Room Temperature Viral Culture Media
- 1 – PurWrap mini-tip swab

### ❖ CENTRIFUGE LOAN DATA BASE UPDATE

In order to ensure that proper maintenance is performed on all AML owned centrifuges, we must make sure that our centrifuge data base is complete and accurate.

A memo has been included at the end of this newsletter requesting information on Allina Medical Laboratories owned centrifuges in use in your office.

Please take a few moments to complete the information and fax it back to Jennifer at 612-863-7936 by July 15, 2005.

## WEB SITE

### ❖ Sputum Collection Instructions Translated

Along with English, AML is pleased to announced that the Sputum Collection Instructions for patients has been translated and is now available in four additional languages; Hmong, Russian, Somali and Spanish.

These instructions, along with others, such as stool and urine collection instructions, can be found at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). From our home page, click on Collection Manual, and then Specimen Collection Instructions.

## HELP US HELP YOU

### ❖ **Highlighting on Paperwork Submitted to AML**

To more efficiently handle and process paperwork received from our clients, AML has recently implemented a scanning system for document storage and retrieval.

During this implementation, it has been noted that print that has been highlighted with a pink highlighter, does not show up on the scanned document (print is obliterated by the highlighter). Please **DO NOT** highlight anything on requisitions using pink. Yellow and green highlighters are acceptable options as highlighting in these colors does not interfere with the scanning process.

### ❖ **Complete Information Needed for AFP Triple Screen and Quad Screen**

In order for specimens to be submitted for AFP Triple Screen (6770/AF3) or Quad Screen (5130/QSQ) testing, all information requested on the AFP, Triple Screen, Quad Screen Data Sheet must be available. In order to expedite processing and testing of these tests, please make sure that the form is *completely* filled out prior to submitting the specimen to AML.

A copy of this form has been included with this newsletter, and is also available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). Once at the home page, click on Forms and then AFP Data Pad

Pads of these AFP Data Pad forms can also be ordered on via our on line Supply Catalog.

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

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