



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES  
AUGUST 2006  
UPDATE**

- CHEMISTRY**
  - Fetal Lung Maturity Test Available at ANW
  - Ionized Calcium Specimen Stability
  
- CONTINUING EDUCATION**
  - Role of the Wet Prep in the Diagnosis of Vaginitis
  
- CYTOGENETICS**
  - Specimen Transport Reminder
  
- CYTOLOGY**
  - ThinPrep Pap Test With Correlating Biopsy Specimens, and “Rush” Specimens
  
- MOLECULAR**
  - Hepatitis C Testing Brought In House
  
- SENDOUTS**
  - Hepatitis B Surface Ag Reflex Testing Delays
  - Reference Range Changes
  - Urine Testing for Methamphetamines
  - IBD Testing Change
  
- HELP US HELP YOU**
  - Correlation Testing

# ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

## AUGUST 2006

### CHEMISTRY

#### ❖ FETAL LUNG MATURITY TEST AVAILABLE AT ANW

The Fetal Lung Maturity (FLM/1440) that has been previously performed at only Mercy and United Hospitals is now available at Abbott Northwestern Hospital also. The test is performed 24/7 at each site.

#### Use

The FLM test measures the Albumin to Surfactant Ratio in Amniotic Fluid for the assessment of lung maturity of the fetus. The lung is the last organ to mature to the extent necessary to support extrauterine life. Studies have shown that, in the process of maturation, the lungs begin to secrete a surfactant; the major constituent of this surfactant is lecithin. This surfactant prevents the collapse of the alveoli at end -expiration by decreasing surface tension. In cases of pre-mature birth, insufficient amounts of pulmonary surfactant are present and the newborn infant develops Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS), a serious and life-threatening condition requiring aggressive and long-term respiratory support.

#### Acceptable Specimen Type

Amniotic fluid collected by trans-abdominal amniocentesis or from a free flowing vaginal tap may be used. At least 1 cc of amniotic fluid is needed for a single FLM assay. **DO NOT Centrifuge the sample** as it can falsely decrease results.

Samples can be stored at 2 - 8°C for up to 24 hours before testing. Do Not Freeze.

#### Resulting

< 20 mg/g	Immature	High risk of RDS
20 - 44 mg/g	Borderline/Transitional	Moderate risk of RDS
≥ 45 mg/g	Mature	Very low risk of RDS

Low values (<20 mg/g) and High values (>45 mg/g) correlate very well with the L/S Ratio, DSL, and PG tests. For values in the borderline region (21-44), the physician may want the specimen sent out for additional testing (L/S, DSL, PG). These specimens will be sent to the U of M (at an additional charge) for the requested follow-up testing.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>Fetal Lung Maturity</b>
<b>Test #:</b>	1400/FLM
<b>Collect:</b>	Amniotic Fluid
<b>Container:</b>	Amniotic Fluid Amber Vial
<b>Processing:</b>	None
<b>Transport:</b>	Refrigerated
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	AML
<b>Special Instructions:</b>	If Reflex to FL3/4622 (Fetal Maturity Study) is requested, delivery to AML must not exceed 2 hours from time of collection. If ONLY FLM is requested specimen is stable 24 hours refrigerated. DO NOT Freeze.
<b>CPT Code:</b>	83663
<b>List Price:</b>	\$166.60

## ❖ IONIZED CALCIUM SPECIMEN STABILITY

Due to ongoing problems with the collection, processing and performance of Ionized Calcium's (58/CAI), effective immediately, the following changes will take place:

1. All specimens for Ionized Calcium collected in a **setting where the specimen must be transported prior to analysis** must be serum. **Heparinized specimens received at a testing site that have been collected at a reference client location will be rejected**
2. Heparinized Whole Blood is the specimen of choice for those specimens **collected in a hospital setting, where the Ionized Calcium is performed on site**. The heparinized whole blood should be placed on ice as soon as possible after collection. If placing the specimen on ice is not possible, the specimen should be run within 30 minutes of collection.

### Specimen Stability:

Serum: **Ionized Calcium is stable for 4 hours when stored at Room Temp, 7 days when stored at 4°C**

The AML Collection Manual has been updated to reflect these changes.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

On September 19, 2006, AML will be offering a continuing education event, presented by Jo-Ellen Abraham, MS. Jo-Ellen is the AML Technical Consultant for Microbiology and will speak on the Role of the Wet Prep in the Diagnosis of Vaginitis. The presentation will include a discussion of the wet prep procedure and its relation to the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis and Trichomonas and yeast vaginitis.

The presentation will be held at United Hospital, St Paul, in the Heart Lung Conference Hall. Registration and a light supper will begin at 6 pm with the presentation beginning at 6:30 pm.

Registration materials will be mailed to our clients soon, and additional copies will be available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). From the home page, click on the *Continuing Education* link.

## CYTOGENETICS

### ❖ SPECIMEN TRANSPORT REMINDER

AML Cytogenetics staff would like to remind all client who submit specimens for Cytogenetics analysis, that specimens should never be frozen.

Complete Cytogenetics specimen requirements are available on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). From the home page, click on the *Cytogenetics Laboratory* link under Featured Services.

## CYTOLOGY

### ❖ THINPREP PAP TEST WITH CORRELATING BIOPSY SPECIMENS, AND “RUSH” SPECIMENS

In order to correlate ThinPrep pap tests and biopsy results that are collected on a patient the same day, the reports must be available and ready for sign out at the same time.

Due to the large volume of ThinPrep pap tests received at AML each day (500 vials), it is difficult to prioritize these particular ThinPrep paps. In order to assist with this process and optimize the turn around time of these specimens and reports, we are asking that these ThinPrep vials be packaged in a STAT bag.

If you have collected a biopsy (cervical, vaginal, cervical polyp, etc.) and a ThinPrep pap on a patient on the same day, please package the ThinPrep pap vial as follows:

- Place the labeled ThinPrep pap vial in the sealable pouch of an AML Cytology/Histology specimen bag, and place the corresponding requisition in the outer pocket of the same bag.
- Once the ThinPrep pap vial specimen bag is sealed, place the entire specimen bag into a white paper STAT bag (pictured below)



- Place this STAT package in the courier bag with your other ThinPrep vial specimens to be transported to AML

'Rush' (patient having surgery, patient leaving town for extended time period etc) ThinPrep vials should also be placed in these same STAT bags. This additional specimen package will allow Cytology staff to recognize these high priority specimens, and will ultimately improve the specimen turnaround time.

If you do not have any of these STAT paper bags, they can be ordered on our AML website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories), by calling AML Customer Service at 612-863-4678, or by contacting your AML Account Representative.

## MOLECULAR

### ❖ Hepatitis C Testing Brought In House

AML is pleased to announce that effective Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, two Hepatitis C tests, *HCV RT-PCR Viral Load (2242/QHC)* and *HCV RNA PCR Genotype (2346/HCR)*, were brought in house.

The use of PCR in the quantitation of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), as well as the identification of the HCV genotype, provides valuable information regarding the treatment and monitoring of HCV disease.

HCV genotype identification aids in predicting treatment response as well as treatment duration while the HCV quantitation is used to evaluate the patient response to antiretroviral treatment.

There are no changes to specimen type, processing or transport instructions. The changes that did occur are listed below.

#### **Test Name: *HCV RT-PCR Viral Load (2242/QHC)***

##### Performing Lab

Currently: ViroMed (#550033)  
New: AML \*

##### Days Set up

Currently: M – F  
New: Varies

##### Expected TAT

Currently: 1-2 Days  
New: 5 days

##### CPT:

Currently: 87522-90  
New: 87522

List Price: \$245.00

*\* If the patient has had previous positive results and is therefore being followed, the Viral Load will continue to be done at ViroMed. In this situation, AML Molecular staff will cancel the 2242/QHC, order an MSO and initiate transport of the specimen to ViroMed. No action is required by the client.*

#### **Test Name: *HCV RNA PCR Genotype (2346/HCR)***

##### Performing Lab

Currently: ViroMed  
New: AML

##### CPT:

Currently: 87902-90  
New: 87902

List Price: \$363.00

Effective September 15, 2006, specimens submitted for these two tests should be submitted in Sartstedt Transfer Vials. For each test, two vials, each containing 1 (one) ml of frozen serum should be submitted. Sarstedt vials can be ordered using our on-line Supply Catalog found at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories), or by calling AML Customer Service at 612-863-4678.

## SENDOUTS

### ❖ HEPATITIS B SURFACE AG REFLEX TESTING DELAYS

AML has received notification from Memorial Blood Center that the test kits for Hepatitis B Neutralization (reflex testing for positive HBsAntigen - 686/HBS) are on backorder until approximately August 24<sup>th</sup>.

MBC will freeze all positive HBsAg specimens and will proceed with testing and reporting of the neutralization upon receipt of the test kits.

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

### ❖ REFERENCE RANGE CHANGES

AML has received notification that effective immediately, there are Reference Range changes for ***Ristocetin Cofactor*** and ***Von Willebrand Antigen***, both part of the ***Von Willebrand Screen, 507/VWI*** performed at the U of MN Physicians Outreach Labs.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b><i>RISTOCENTIN COFACTOR</i></b>
<b>Ref. Ranges:</b>	Currently 60 - 160 %
	New 50 - 175%

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b><i>VON WILLEBRAND ANTIGEN</i></b>
<b>Ref. Ranges:</b>	Currently 55 - 145 %
	New 55 - 160%

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

### ❖ URINE TESTING FOR METHAMPHETAMINES

AML often gets questions regarding how to order urine testing to detect Methamphetamine.

The best urine drug screen for detecting Methamphetamine is 2951/DAU, Drugs of Abuse, Screen 1.

The Methamphetamine falls under the Amphetamine category. Methamphetamine is a metabolite of Amphetamine, and both tests must be done before the test can be called positive.

If you desire quantification of the results beyond Small, Medium or Large, the test to order is 8807/AMP, on urine.

Because peak concentration of this drug in the blood occurs at about 10 hours, while in the urine, it can be detected from 1-4 days after use, urine is the specimen of choice.

## ❖ IRRITABLE BOWEL DISEASE TESTING CHANGE

AML has received notification from Prometheus Laboratories that effective September 1, 2006, the IBD First Step with Confirmation will no longer be available.

This test is being replaced by a new test at Prometheus called **IBD Serology 7**. This test has an additional marker, Anti-Cbir-1.

The Anti-Cbir-1 is a flagellin-like antigen associated with Irritable Bowel Disease. Serum response to anti-Cbir-1 identifies CD and is associated with a unique subset of patients with complicated CD. This is the only change to the test.

Effective 9/1/2006, if an IBD First Step (4104/IBD) is ordered, it will be changed to the IBD Serology 7, or it can be ordered directly as an MSO.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>IBD Serology 7</b>
Specimen:	2ml serum
CPT Codes:	83520-90 X 5 88347-90 X 2
List Price:	\$480.00

If the ordering provider does not want this replacement, other tests available include:

Mayo Medical Laboratories IBD Profile which includes:

Saccharomyces cerevisiae Ab, IgA, S  
Saccharomyces cerevisiae Ab, IgG, S  
Neutrophil Specific Antibodies

Quest Diagnostics IBD Differentiation Panel which includes:

Saccharomyces cerevisiae Ab ASCA, IgG & IgA  
ANCA IBD, Screen (reflexes to a titer if positive)

## HELP US HELP YOU

### ❖ CORRELATION TESTING

AML will provide split sample testing for quality control of your in-house laboratory testing for a fee. Please contact your AML Account Representative for ordering and price information. A form will be provided for your use to aid in return of results to your facility, as well as correct billing of the specimens.

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

*If you desire additional copies of this edition of the Update newsletter, they can be printed from our website at:*

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