



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES  
AUGUST 2007  
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# ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

## AUGUST 2007

### MAYO MEDICAL LABORATORIES (MML) TRANSITION UPDATE

#### ❖ First Batches of Tests Transitioned

AML is pleased to announce that our transition to Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) as our managed send out program vendor is under way.

The first batch of orderable tests transitioned to MML on Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup> and the second on August 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be weekly batches thereafter, with the exception of the week of the Labor Day holiday, until the send out testing is transitioned.

Details surrounding each transition batch will be communicated to our clients via email or mailings, and will also be posted on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). If you would like to receive these communications via email (the most timely communication method), please contact your AML Account Representative.

Copies of the details surrounding the testing transitioned on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> have been included with this newsletter for your reference. In addition to these communications, the test listing in our on line collection manual for each affected test is updated to reflect any changes the day that the changes take place.

**Correction:** Please note the **New Transport** information included for Erythropoietin (297/EPO). The New Transport for this test was originally communicated as Refrigerated (no change from current), however, it has been brought to our attention that this specimen must be submitted **FROZEN**

#### ❖ Mayo Supplies Available to Order

As we continue our transition to MML as our managed send out program vendor, new supplies will become available to order. These supplies made available in our on line Supply at the appropriate times.

Currently, we have several new supplies available for order.

MML requests that all serum specimens be aliquoted into an aliquot vial. If you draw specimens at your site and know that the test will be referred to MML, the specimen should be transferred into a Mayo clear or amber aliquot vial. These two supplies have been placed on our website and are available to order at this time.

Three PCR tests which are being converted to Mayo Medical Laboratories on August 28<sup>th</sup> will require a new supply. MML utilizes M4 (Red Cap, room temperature storage), and M5 (green cap, refrigerated storage) Viral Transport media for their PCR testing. These Mayo M4 and M5 Transport Medias are available to order on our on line supply catalog at this time. Please order an initial supply of these tubes to get your area stocked up. Note: Collection swabs are not included with the media and must be ordered separately.

During this transition period, if PCR specimens are received at AML in the incorrect but acceptable media (UTM media used by the current reference laboratory) they will not be rejected.

If you have not yet placed an order for these new Mayo supplies, please go to our on-line supply catalog at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories) to place your order.

If you are a site that sends testing directly to Mayo, please remember that for compliance reasons, you should be obtaining these supplies direct from Mayo Medical Laboratories and not from AML.

## BLOOD BANK

### ❖ Critical Value Listing Revised

Effective September 15, 2007, the AML Blood Bank Critical Value Listing will be revised to include ***Positive Direct Antiglobulin Test (DAT) on cord or neonatal sample.***

The complete Blood Bank Critical Value Listing for Reference Lab Patients Includes:

- Positive Antibody Screen – compatible blood is not available
- Positive Direct Antiglobulin Test (DAT) on cord or neonatal sample
- Two-fold or greater increase in prenatal antibody titer of clinically significant antibody
- Inability to procure blood or blood components

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### ❖ Hemostasis & Thrombostasis

Mark Arnesen, MD, Board Certified Anatomic and Clinical Pathologist, will be speaking on Hemostasis & Thrombostasis, on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. This presentation will be held at the John Nasseff Auditorium on the United Hospital Campus in Saint Paul from 6-7:30pm.

The program will provide a correlation between clinical and laboratory findings for hemostasis & thrombostasis events and will also provide insight into the inter-relationships between the AMC Clinic, Allina regional and metro hospitals and the AML central coagulation laboratory.

Watch for registration information in the mail, or you may obtain registration information on our Continuing Education Listings link on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories).

## MOLECULAR

### ❖ NEW VIRAL LOAD TEST COMING THIS FALL

This fall, Allina Medical Laboratories will begin using the recently FDA approved Roche HIV-1 Taqman assay for HIV viral load testing.

The new test will be orderable as test 7867/HVL. This new HIV viral load test will replace the existing two test system that has been in use which includes the HIV-1 RNA Quantitation by PCR (1821/HRQ) and HIV Ultrasensitive RNA Quant test (3002/HUQ).

The new single test system for HIV viral load should simplify ordering for clinic staff and reduce reflex testing. Additionally, the new test uses fluorescent real-time PCR chemistry which greatly improves the linear range. The linear range of the new HVL test is 48-10,000,000 copies/ml. For comparison, the current HIV-1 RNA Quantitation by PCR linear range is 400-750,000 copies/ml while the HIV Ultrasensitive RNA Quant linear range is 50-100,000 copies/ml.

The required specimen for the new HVL is slightly greater than the current methods. The new test will require that two EDTA plasma aliquots be submitted to AML, each with at least 1.0 ml of plasma. As before the whole blood must be processed within 6 hours of collection and the plasma must be aliquoted into polypropylene tubes and frozen prior to transport to AML.

Watch for future communications with specific go live dates!

## **SENDOUTS**

### **❖ SELECT TESTS MOVING TO GENZYME**

As a part of our process of changing primary referral laboratories, it was determined that Genzyme Genetics provides the most superior testing for four tests which are currently being referred from AML to Quest Diagnostics – Maternal Quad Screen (5130/QSQ), Maternal Triple Screen (6770/AF3), Initial Maternal Screen (AFP only) and Cystic Fibrosis DNA Screen ( 5520/CFD).

In the future, these tests will be referred to Genzyme Genetics. Until the conversion is completed, you should continue to order the Quest testing in order to get all of the necessary information to AML, but AML staff will be cancelling those tests and re-ordering the corresponding Genzyme test and referring the specimen to Genzyme.

#### **Reporting**

Excellian users will receive the Genzyme report via a scan of the actual Genzyme report.

For non-Allina customers, the report will be sent via the normal report distribution method for your clinic.

## ❖ CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE CULTURE NO LONGER OFFERED

Due to low volume usage and problems with proper collection, effective immediately, AML will no longer offer the Clostridium difficile Culture (2483/CDC). The preferred test for primary testing for C. difficile is the Clostridium difficile Toxin A/B (6588/CDT). Test information and specimen requirements for the C. difficile Toxin A/B are as follows:

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE TOXIN A/B</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	6588/CDT
<b>Collect:</b>	Liquid or Soft Stool
<b>Container:</b>	Plastic Screw Cap Vial or Cary Blair (C&S)      Transport
<b>Processing:</b>	Screw Cap Vials: Deliver within 48 hrs Cary Blair: Deliver within 5 days
<b>Transport/Stability:</b>	Refrigerated/*Ambient
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	AML
<b>Collection/ Processing Details:</b>	To yield best diagnostic results, the Allina Infectious Disease Physician/Pharmacy task force recommends that testing be performed on diarrheal stools only. *Cary Blair vials may be transported at ambient temperature. <i>FORMED STOOLS ARE UNACCEPTABLE.</i>
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	87324

Another alternate test that can be ordered is the ***Clostridium difficile Toxin Gene Detection by Rapid PCR***. This is a new test offered by Mayo Medical Laboratories that identifies the regulatory gene that may be associated with toxin hyperproduction.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE TOXIN GENE DETECTION BY RAPID PCR</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	994/MSO
<b>Collect:</b>	A minimum of 1.0mL of fresh, diarrheal (liquid or soft) stool
<b>Container:</b>	Plastic Screw Cap Vial
<b>Transport/Stability:</b>	Frozen
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	Mayo Medical Laboratories
<b>Days Set Up:</b>	Monday through Sunday; Varies
<b>Reference Range:</b>	Negative (Clostridium difficile toxins not detected)
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	87798

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

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