



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES  
JUNE 2009  
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# ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

## JUNE 2009

### BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

#### ❖ Cytogenetics CPT Code Changes

The following Cytogenetics CPT Code changes are **effective immediately**. There is no change in price with this change.

CYG Limited CVS Study:

Old 88261, **88230** and 88280  
New: 88261, **88235** and 88280

CYG Limited Leukemic Blood Study:

Old: 88261, **88230** and 88280  
New: 88261, **88237** and 88280

### CHEMISTRY

#### ❖ Vitamin D Update

Vitamin D plays a central role in calcium and phosphorus metabolism, and skeletal health. Although fortification of foods with Vitamin D has reduced the risk of severe vitamin D deficiency, it has recently been recognized that many adults and children have mild deficiency.

#### ***Which test should be ordered when assessing a person's vitamin D status?***

The best test to order is 25-OH vitamin D. Test name is Vitamin D Total and the Allina lab test method measures both D2 and D3. Recently published papers suggest there is limited clinical benefit in differentiating between the two forms.

#### ***If 1,25-di-OH Vitamin D is the active form, why isn't it the best test to order?***

1,25-di-OH Vitamin D can be normal or even elevated in vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D deficiency leads to hypocalcemia, which triggers increased PTH, that in turn causes the kidney to produce more 1,25-di-OH Vitamin D. This test is used primarily to assess suspected cases of Vitamin D dependent rickets type 1, pseudovitamin D deficiency rickets, and vitamin D status in patients with chronic renal failure.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### ❖ Results Communication to Patients

Please do not instruct your patients to call Allina Medical Laboratories for their lab results. We have been receiving numerous calls from patients who have been instructed by their clinic to call AML for their test results

Allina HIPAA policies do not allow laboratory staff to give results to patients; the results must be communicated to the patient by the ordering clinic. If a patient is calling your facility for results that you have not yet received from AML, you must call AML for these, not the patient.

Thank you for your assistance with helping us keep the patients' information private and secure!

## CYTOLOGY

### ❖ Submitting Paps Collected at Time of Colposcopy

When a biopsy AND a Pap are collected in the same procedure, the pathologist who reads the biopsy has to comment in the biopsy report if the Pap diagnosis correlates with the biopsy or not.

In order to accomplish this, the AML Cytology Lab must be able to locate these ThinPrep Pap vials quickly. AML Cytology receives over 400 ThinPrep Pap vials each day, so trying to identify a Pap that needs to be correlated with a biopsy is a very time-consuming process if that Pap does not stand out from all the rest.

In order to expedite the processing of these pap specimens, we request that the Pap vial and requisition are placed into a white STAT bag and then into the large Allina Reference Lab bag with your other ThinPrep Paps. Then Allina Cytology can more easily find those cases, process as a priority, screen, and send them to the pathologist who reads the biopsy. The physician will receive both results for the patient in a short time.

**Do NOT put the ThinPrep Pap vial into a STAT bag with the biopsy.** The specimens go to different labs in different buildings, and that would delay the process.

If you need assistance ordering the paper stat bags, please contact Customer Service or your AML Account Representative.

Thank you for your help in this matter!

# MICROBIOLOGY

## ❖ Parasitology Test Ordering

Due to differences in CPT coding, the following parasitology tests are available for ordering based on the specimen being submitted and suspected organism:

**Test Name:** Parasite Direct Exam  
**Test Number:** 6684/PAR  
**Collect:** Worm or other non-insect  
**Container:** Ecofix vial  
**Transport/Stability:** Ambient  
**CPT Code:** 87169

**Test Name:** Insect Direct Exam  
**Test Number:** 6546/SEC  
**Collect:** tick, lice, flea, larvae, other insects  
**Container:** Tick: Place in a tightly covered container with a moist gauze to prevent the specimen from drying.  
Other insects: Place in a tightly covered container with 70% ethyl alcohol.  
**Transport/Stability:** Ambient  
**Collection/  
Processing Details:** Tick identification limited to identification of the Ixodes deer tick, vector of lyme disease. If spirochete detection within the tick is desired, order instead: Tick ID & Spirochete (380/TIK)  
**CPT Code:** 87168

**Test Name:** Scabies/Mite Exam  
**Test Number:** 4347/SCA  
**Collect:** Skin scrapings of burrow contents  
**Container:** Clean container or between 2 glass slides, taped together, in a plastic slide holder  
**Transport/Stability:** Ambient  
**Collection/  
Processing Details:** Place drop of mineral oil over burrow and scrape out contents with scalpel blade. Place scrapings between 2 slides and tape together.  
If mite burrows cannot be seen: Apply a blue or black felt-tipped pen to suspected areas. Wipe off ink with alcohol. Mite burrows will be revealed if the ink sinks into them.  
**CPT Code:** 87220

**Test Name:** Pinworm Prep

**Test Number:** 6603/PIN

**Collect:** perianal folds

**Container:** Pinworm paddle

**Transport/Stability:** Ambient

**Collection/**

**Processing Details:** Collect specimen in early AM before the patient bathes or defecates. Press sticky side of paddle around anal area. Replace paddle in tube.

**CPT Code:** 87172

**Test Name:** Ova and Parasites

**Test Number:** 6596/OP

**Collect:** Stool, stool aspirate, small bowel aspirate, gastric fluid, liver aspirate, urine, sputum

**Container:** Ecofix vial

**Transport/Stability:** Ambient; no time limit

**Collection/**

**Processing Details:** Collect specimen in clean container and transfer to Ecofix vial within one hour. Three specimens for parasite exams, collected two days apart, each in a separate vial, are recommended. Ecofix specimens will be rejected if refrigerated.

UNACCEPTABLE: Specimens contaminated with urine or barium. Wait 7-10 days after administration of barium before collection.

**CPT Codes:** 87177 + 87209

## SENDOUTS

### ❖ PCA3Plus® Testing Available

Allina Medical Laboratories is pleased to announce the availability of a new test, the PCA3Plus® from Bostwick Laboratories.

The following information about PCA3 and the PCA3Plus® Test was received from Bostwick Laboratories:

*PCA3 is a gene which was discovered in the 1990's. The gene was found to be over-expressed in prostate cancer cells. Later research showed that urine collected after the performance of a light prostatic massage (called an attentive digital rectal exam, or DRE) contained prostate cells in sufficient number to evaluate a patient's risk for prostate cancer.*

*PCA3Plus® is a urine-based test which is specific to prostate cancer cells and is a very accurate predictor for prostate cancer. It has a much higher accuracy for prostate cancer detection than PSA levels alone.*

*A PCA3Plus® test is usually performed when a patient has previously had a negative prostate biopsy, but their PSA levels remain high or continue to rise.*

Test collection kits for the PCA3Plus® are available via our electronic Supply Catalog on our website at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories). These kits can be found under Miscellaneous Supplies.

<b>Test Name:</b>	<b>PCA3- PLUS</b>
<b>Test Number:</b>	994/MSO
<b>Collect:</b>	Random Urine
<b>Container:</b>	Aptima Gen-Probe Urine Collection/Transport Tube
<b>Processing:</b>	Transfer Urine to Line indicated on Transport Device with Pipet Supplied
<b>Transport/Stability:</b>	Refrigerated
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	Bostwick Labs
<b>Collection/ Processing Details:</b>	See <i>Collection Instructions in our online Collection Manual at <a href="http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories">www.allina.com/medicallaboratories</a></i>
<b>Method:</b>	Genetic Assay
<b>CPT Codes:</b>	83913-90; 83891-90 x2; 83892-90 x2; 83902-90 x2; 83898-90 x2; 83896-90 x2; 83912-90
<b>List Price:</b>	\$111.50

**Reporting:** The PCA3Plus® test will be resulted as Positive, Negative or Non-Informative. Along with this result, a copy of the Bostwick Laboratories will be distributed to the ordering provider.

## ❖ Acetylcholine Receptor (AChR) Blocking Ab No Longer Available at MML

**Tests Affected:** Myasthenia Gravis/Lambert-Eaton (Mayo #83369); Myasthenia Gravis, Adult (Mayo #83370) and Pediatric (Mayo # 83371) and Paraneoplastic Autoantibody Evaluation, Serum (Mayo Test #83380).

**Explanation:** Allina Medical Laboratories has received communication from Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) that **effective July 9th, 2009**, the Acetylcholine Receptor (AChR) Blocking Antibody test will become obsolete. Currently, the AChR Blocking antibodies is only performed if AChR Modulating antibodies is performed through reflex and is determined to be 40% to 100% loss or indeterminate. AChR blocking antibodies represent a minority of the AChR antibodies and usually occur in association with the AChR binding antibodies and are very rarely present without elevated AChR modulating antibodies. The current AChR modulating antibodies test performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories detects both AChR modulating and blocking antibodies. MML has determined that separate measurement of AChR Blocking antibodies offers no additional information to the diagnosis and management of myasthenia gravis (MG).

In order to meet the needs of our customers, beginning July 9th AML will offer both the AChR Blocking and AChR Modulating Antibodies as single orderable tests which will be sent to Quest Diagnostics for analysis. Until the blocking and modulating antibody tests can be built in our LIS system, they will be ordered as MSO's.

**Test Name:** ACETYLCHOLINE BLOCKING ANTIBODY  
**Test Number:** 994/MSO  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum – Plain Red  
**Container:** Screw Cap Transfer Vial  
**Processing:** Spin & Separate  
**Transport/Stability:** Room Temp (14 Days); Refrigerated (14 Days)  
**Alternate Names:** Myasthenia Gravis, Paraneoplastic  
**Performing Lab:** Quest Diagnostics (34459)  
**Processing Details:** If SST is drawn please transfer to screw cap vial before transport.  
**Method:** Radioimmunoassay  
**CPT Codes:** 83519-90  
**List Price:** \$87.50

**Test Name:** ACETYLCHOLINE MODULATING ANTIBODY  
**Test Number:** 994/MSO  
**Collect:** 1 ml Serum – Plain Red  
**Container:** Screw Cap Transfer Vial  
**Processing:** Spin and Separate  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerated (14 Days); Room Temp (14 Days);  
**Alternate Names:** Myasthenia Gravis, Paraneoplastic  
**Performing Lab:** Quest Diagnostics (26474)  
**Collection/**  
**Processing Details:** If SST is drawn please transfer to screw cap vial before transport  
**Method:** Radio Binding Assay  
**CPT Codes:** 83519-90  
**List Price:** \$105.50

## ❖ H1N1 Influenza Update

Rapid influenza testing is still available at Allina Medical Laboratories, however, due to the conflicting information on the utility of the test for detecting H1N1, providers need to exercise their own clinical judgment rather than relying strictly on the test to determine if a patient has H1N1.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) continues to perform H1N1 testing. This testing is only performed on patients who meet the criteria listed on the attached MDH H1N1 Novel Influenza Screening Form.

For MDH H1N1 Testing:

- Collect a nasopharyngeal swab (Dacron/Synthetic) or nasal wash/aspirate
- Complete the MDH H1N1 Novel Influenza Screening Form
- Complete the MDH Request for Testing and Submission of Isolates Form
- Order Miscellaneous Sendout (MSO/994)

Current information is located on the MDH website at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us).

## ❖ Rabies Testing Change

AML has received notice from Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) that effective immediately, their test Rabies Antibody, ELISA, currently referred on to Focus Diagnostics (AML 4827/RAB, MML test code 91232) has been made obsolete due to technical issues.

As an alternative, this test will be forwarded to Kansas State University (MML test code 90530 as a Rabies Antibody Titer Check Endpoint (RFFIT)).

### **SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:**

Serum: Collect plain red-top tube. Spin, Separate and submit 2ml (0.5ml min) serum, transport refrigerated.

Alternate: 2ml Serum from serum gel tube, CSF 1-2 mL

Reject: Gross hemolysis, gross lipemia, plasma, bacterial contamination, QNS, unlabeled tube.

**METHODOLOGY:** Serum Neutralization Fluorescence Antibody

**LIST PRICE:** \$67.50

**CPT:** 86382-90

This new test will be ordered as an MSO. Until our LIS systems can be updated to reflect this change, orders received as a 4827/RAB will be cancelled and the replacement test ordered as an MSO.

### ❖ Aldolase Specimen Requirement Change

Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) has announced that, effective immediately, they will no longer accept specimens drawn in serum separator tubes (SSTs) for test Aldolase, Serum (21/ALD, MML test # 8363).

Routine validation studies performed by the lab demonstrate that results are optimal when the specimen is collected in a plain, red-top tube.

#### **SPECIMEN REQUIRED:**

Draw blood in a plain, red-top tube(s) from a fasting patient. ***Serum separator tubes and hemolyzed specimens are not acceptable.*** Spin down and send 1 mL of serum frozen in a Mayo Screw Cap Transfer Vial.

The AML online Collection Manual, found at [www.allina.com/medicallaboratories](http://www.allina.com/medicallaboratories) has been updated to reflect this change.

### ❖ Vitamin B1 (145/VB1) Specimen Processing and Transport Update

We have received notification from Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) that effective immediately, the whole blood specimen for Vitamin B1 no longer needs to be protected from light. It must, however, still be transported frozen. Please begin submitting the frozen whole blood specimen in the standard (not amber) Mayo screw cap transfer vial.

**Test Name:** VITAMIN B 1, WHOLE BLOOD  
**Test Number:** 145/VB1  
**Collect:** 5.0 ml Heparin Whole Blood  
**Peds Collect:** 1.0 ml Heparin Whole Blood  
**Container:** MAYO-Screw Cap Transfer Vial  
**Processing:** Submit Frozen Whole Blood in Mayo Plastic Vial  
**Transport/Stability:** Frozen; Refrigerated <48 hours OK; Ambient: NO

Note: For Allina facilities, until LIS is able to update the test in Ultra, the Ultra labels will still indicate "Protect from light". Please ignore this instruction; the labels will be updated as soon as possible.

### ❖ *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Testing Change

We have received notice from MML that the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Amplified Direct Test (MTA/8078) has been inactivated. This test has been replaced by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex by Rapid PCR. Test and specimen information are as follows:

**Test Name:** MYCOBACTERIUM TB COMPLEX BY RAPID PCR  
**Test Number:** 994/MSO  
**Collect:** Only 1 of the Following:  
Respiratory Specimen: 1 ml, Body Fluid or Urine: 1 ml  
Stool: 5 gm, Tissue  
**Container:** Sterile Screw Cap Container  
**Processing:** Submit Entire Specimen  
**Transport/Stability:** Refrigerated  
**Performing Lab:** Mayo Medical Labs (88807)  
**Days Set Up:** M - F  
**Expected TAT:** 1 -2 Days  
**Ref. Ranges:** Negative for DNA  
**Collection/**  
**Processing Details:** See attached Specimen Requirements  
**Method:** Real-Time PCR  
**CPT Codes:** 87556 -90  
**List Price:** \$149.80

## 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)