



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
JUNE 2007
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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE JUNE 2007

REFERENCE LABORATORY CHANGE ANNOUNCED

❖ AML Has Selected Mayo Medical Laboratories To Be Primary Referred Testing Vendor

Allina Medical Laboratories historically has sent out a large number of tests to five major laboratories and 100-150 smaller laboratories. With the approval of the Allina Clinical Leadership Team and input from physicians on the decision team (10 physicians from the metro and regional hospitals and the Allina Medical Clinics), AML has entered into a system-wide contract with Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) to become our managed lab send out program vendor.

With this contract Mayo becomes the primary reference laboratory for almost all testing not performed by Allina Medical Laboratories. (Exceptions include toxicology and a few selected tests that will continue to go directly to Memorial Blood Center, Genzyme, Myriad, University of Minnesota, American Red Cross and Minnesota and Wisconsin Health Departments.).

Partnering with MML will provide, in one entity, access to a broad range of diagnostic testing and consultative services. Focusing most referred testing with one regional facility will result in streamlined efficiencies that will enable us to improve our service to you while still providing the outstanding quality for your patients that you have come to expect from Allina Medical Laboratories. As part of this effort to streamline our sendouts, AML will no longer maintain accounts with alternative laboratories, and will no longer accommodate requests from providers to send testing to these laboratories.

The transition to MML will be an incremental process, with blocks of 30 tests transitioning at a time. This transition has begun already with tests that had not been built as orderable in our LIS system (tests currently ordered as MSO's) that had no specimen requirement, reference range or methodology changes. There is no change to the current ordering, specimen collection and handling or transport processes for these MSO tests.

We will communicate any changes related to this transition (specimen requirement, reference range, methodology, CPT etc) to our clients via email communications and our AML Update newsletter. All communications on this transition will also be posted on the home page of our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories for your reference.

NEW FEES IN EFFECT JULY 1, 2007

Please see the attached spread sheet identifying fee changes that will be implemented on August 1, 2007

COURIER SERVICE CHANGE

❖ Unscheduled Courier Service Change Effective July 1st

In response to escalating fuel costs, effective July 1, 2007, Allina Medical Laboratories will no longer offer unscheduled courier service at no charge to our non-Allina owned customers. If our courier service has a scheduled run in your area, you may have been set up to be able to be added to that run as an On Request pick up. An On Request pick up will be regarded the same as a scheduled pick up, with no additional charge to your office. Requests for On Request pick ups for clinical, flow cytometry, cytology and anatomic pathology specimens must be submitted to AML Customers Service (612-863-4678) by 3pm for metro customers and 1pm for outstate customers. Requests for On Request cytogenetics testing should continue to be submitted directly to AML Cytogenetics (612- 863-4541).

You must indicate that you have an On Request pick up option available.

If your scheduled or On Request pick up does not meet your needs, you may continue to call AML Customer Service (612-863-4678) Monday – Friday (7am – 11pm) 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 the MedStat Systems courier service to request an urgent pick up for your specimens. MedStat guarantees a two hour service in the metro area (time from call placed to MedStat to specimen drop at requested facility).

The charge for this pick up will be billed back to you on your monthly invoice.

Courier service for weekend stats, or stats prior to 7am and after 11pm should be called directly to your own courier service.

MedStat courier charges to your account will be based on tiered pricing, depending on your location.

Please feel free to contact your Account Representative if you have any questions, or you need to verify whether you have an On Request option available.

REPORT FORMAT CHANGES EFFECTIVE 6/27

In response to Minnesota statute 325E.59, Use of Social Security Numbers, beginning June 27, 2007, AML will begin masking all but the last four digits of the patient's SSN on all paper reports distributed to clients. The first five digits will be replaced by "#". At the same time, the abbreviation in front of this field will be changed from SSN to PID. All reports printed June 27th or later, including reprint requests for testing completed prior to this date, will reflect these changes.

Current Format (lower portion of the report):

SSN-123456789

New Format as of June 27, 2007 (lower portion of the report):

PID-#####6789

In order to allow us to group all patient information under a single ID to assure optimal access for the provider to all laboratory data and ensure quality patient care, we request that you continue to provide the patient's SSN on each test request submitted to AML.

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ New Tests Added to the LCD Medical Necessity Guidelines

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that **effective June 01, 2007**, a new test, Vitamin B12 (272/B12), has been added to the LCD Medical Necessity Guidelines. Vitamin B12 (Cyanocobalamin) test is a quantitative analysis of serum vitamin B12 levels.

This policy can be reviewed on the Noridian Administrative Services, LLC website at www.noridianmedicare.com.

- Select State under Part A.
- Read the "End User Agreement for Providers" and select "Accept".
- Select "Coverage" from the tabs at the top of the page.
- Select "LCD-Final / Active / Retired Medical Policies" under the section "Coverage Determinations".
- Select state of interest under "Final (in Notice Period) Policies" category.
- Select LCD.

Revised ABN test lists will be available for our clients.

HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION

❖ Specimen Stability Extensions

Effective July 1, 2007, the specimen stability for the Cell Count & Diff, Body Fluid (9420/BFD), Chromogenic Factor X (5767/F10), Crystal ID Body Fluid (425/XTL) and Reticulocyte Count (499/RTC), have been extended. Detailed information for each test is included below:

Test Name	Cell count & Diff, Body Fluid
Test #/ Ultra Code	9420/BFD
Days Performed	24/7
TAT	1 day
Reference Range	See report
Specimen Type	Body Fluid
Container	Lavender Top Tube
Processing	Submit entire specimen Minimum 1 ml
Transport	Refrigerated
Special Instructions	<i>Must be received within 24 hours of collection.</i>

Test Name	Chromogenic Factor X
Test #/ Ultra Code	5767/F10
Days Performed	24/7
Specimen Type	1 full citrate (Blue) top tube
Container	Sodium Citrate 3.2%
Processing	Submit entire specimen
Transport	Ambient
Special Instructions	<i>Must be received within 48 hours of collection</i>

Test Name	Crystal ID Body Fluid
Test #/ Ultra Code	425/XTL
Days Performed	24/7
TAT	1 day
Specimen Type	2 ml Body Fluid
Container	Plain red top or Green top
Processing	Submit entire specimen
Transport	Refrigerated
Special Instructions	<i>Must be received within 24 hours of collection.</i>

Test Name	Reticulocyte Count
Test #/ Ultra Code	499/RTC
Days Performed	24/7
TAT	1 day
Specimen Type	5 ml whole blood
Container	Lavender Top Tube
Processing	Submit entire specimen, Minimum 2 ml
Transport	Ambient
Special Instructions	<i>Must be received within 48 hours of collection.</i>

HEMATOLOGY/PATHOLOGY

❖ Blood Smears for Tick Borne Infections

Ehrlichia (Anaplasmosis)

Allina Medical Laboratories has modified the report format for Ehrlichia (Anaplasmosis) (643/EHL) testing via blood smear evaluation.

Previously, the results were reported as a template blood morphology report. In an attempt to report results in a more intuitive manner for Excellian users and to speed up a final laboratory report to all users, we have eliminated the template blood morphology report. In Excellian, the results are listed in the Results section under Microbiology/ Miscellaneous Stain.

- All after hours presumptive and confirmed positive results for Reference Lab Clients will be called immediately to the ordering provider or On Call Physician as indicated.
- Both positive and negative results will be called to all reference lab customers that have ordered this test as STAT with call as soon as they are available.
- The report will indicate that "Negative results do not exclude disease. Testing sensitivity in optimal circumstances is in optimal circumstances is 60-70% and that additional testing such as PCR or Serology are available upon request".

Examples of the new Ehrlichia report is included with this Update.

Babesia

Since this requires a thick film preparation that is not done with the Ehrlichia smears, Babesia testing should be requested via the separate test –Malaria/Blood Parasites (6607/MAL). The results are reported under the same Microbiology header 'Miscellaneous Stain' in the Excellian Results section.

Please direct any questions to Dr. James Strom (612) 863-4636, Pager (612) 654-3260.

MICROBIOLOGY

❖ LEGIONELLA URINE ANTIGEN TEST IN HOUSE JUNE 26th

The Legionella Urine Antigen test is a rapid test for detection of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen in the urine of infected patients. It is intended, in conjunction with culture and other methods, to aid in the diagnosis of *Legionella* infection (Legionnaires' Disease). *L. pneumophila* is responsible for 80-90% of reported cases of *Legionella* infection, with serogroup 1 accounting for greater than 70% of all legionellosis. Antigen has been detected in urine as early as three days after the onset of symptoms and persists for up to one year.

Specificity of the Legionella Urine Antigen test is 95%. Sensitivity of the urine antigen test varies with the severity of the pneumonia. In patients with severe pneumonia requiring intensive care and ventilator assistance, the Legionella Urine Antigen test has a sensitivity of 95%. In patients with moderately severe pneumonia, sensitivity is 81%. In outpatients and patients with mild pneumonia, the sensitivity of the urine antigen test is only 40%, and therefore is not recommended for these groups.

Test Name: *Legionella Urine Antigen*
 Effective Date: 6/26/07
 Test #/Panel Code: 2389/ULE
 Performing Lab: AML
 Days Set Up: M – Su
 Expected TAT: 1 day. May be ordered *STAT*.
 Specimen: 4 ml Urine – Random
 Container: Sterile Urine Container or
 Urine Culture Transport Tube
 Processing: Submit entire specimen
 Transport: Ambient temperature within 24 hr. of collection.
 Refrigerated within 14 days of collection.
 Reference Range: Negative for *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen, suggesting no recent or current infection. Infection due to *Legionella* cannot be ruled out since other serogroups and species may cause disease, antigen may not be present in urine in early infection, and the level of antigen present may be below the detection limit of the test. Low sensitivity inpatients with mild pneumonia.
 CPT code: 87449
 List Price: \$83.70

SENDOUTS

Estrone Specimen Requirement Change

AML has received notification from Quest Diagnostics that **effective immediately**, the required specimen for Estrone (4763/ERO) is 1ml of serum from a plain red top tube. The AML online Collection Manual, located at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories has been updated to reflect this change

Test Name: **ESTRONE**
Test Number: 4763/ERO
Collect: 1 ml Serum - Plain Red
Alternate Collect: NONE
Container: Plastic Screw Cap Transport Vial
Processing: Spin and Separate
Transport/Stability: Refrigerated
Alternate Names: E1
Performing Lab: Quest Diagnostics
Days Set Up: T - Sa
Expected TAT: 3 - 6 Days
Ref. Ranges: See Report
Collection/
Processing Details: Rejected if on SST, Gross Hemolysis or Lipemic
Method: LC/MS/MS
CPT Codes: 82679-90
Date Created: 11/30/2001
Revised Date: 05/23/2007

❖ **Amino Acid Screen - Qualitative Urine No Longer Available**

Effective immediately, the 322/AQU, Amino Acid Fractionated – Urine Quant, is no longer available. The alternate test is the 291/AAU, Amino Acid Screen – Qualitative Urine. Test information for the alternate test is as follows:

Test Name: *Amino Acid Screen - Qualitative Urine*
Test Number: 291/AAU
Collect: 10 ml Urine - Random -No Preservative
Peds Collect: 2 ml Frozen Urine Aliquot
Container: Screw Cap Urine Container
Processing: Submit 10 ml Frozen Aliquot of Urine
Transport/Stability: Frozen
Alternate Names: INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM SCREEN
Performing Lab: Quest Diagnostics (#8730N)
Days Set Up: M - F (AM)
Expected TAT: 2 - 3 Days
Ref. Ranges: See Report
Collection/Processing Details: RANDOM OR 24 HOUR SPECIMEN. If 24 hours record Total Urine Volume on request and / or aliquot. Provide Age, Sex, tentative Dx and drug history. Remember to leave expansion room in the Container for freezing to prevent leaking of specimen.
Method: HPLC
CPT Codes: 82128-90

❖ **New Urine Drug Screens Available**

Effective immediately AML is offering two new Urine Drug Screen Panels, the Comprehensive Urine Drug Screen-Compliance Monitoring and the Pain Clinic Panel, Limited Scope.

Below, please find the test ordering codes, list pricing and a class listing of drugs for each of the panels, along with the CPT codes. Any drugs identified as positive in the initial screen of either panel will automatically be confirmed at no additional charge. Our on line Collection Manual, located at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories, will be updated to include these new panels when they become available.

If you have any questions regarding these new test panels, please contact your AML Account Representative.

Test Name: **Comprehensive Urine Drug Screen, Compliance Monitoring**
Test #/Code: 7794/CMD
List Price: \$113.50
Class List & CPT Codes:

GC/MS Extraction	80100
Amphetamines, monoclonal	80101
Benzodiazepines	80101
Cocaine metabolite	80101
Opiates	80101
Oxycodone	80101
Methadone	80101
Cannabinoids	80101
Ethyl alcohol	82055
Tricyclic Antidepressants	80101
Fentanyl	80101
Creatinine	82570

Test Name: Pain Clinic Panel, Limited Scope (R/O Drugs of Abuse, Opiate Compliance)

Test #/Code: 7795/PCL

List Price: \$86.50

Class List & CPT Codes:

Ethyl alcohol	82055
Amphetamines, monoclonal	80101
Cocaine metabolite	80101
Opiates	80101
Oxycodone	80101
Methadone	80101
Fentanyl	80101
Cannabinoids	80101
Creatinine	82570

❖ **Specimen Requirements for Vitamin B1 and Heavy Metals, Blood effective July 1st**

AML frequently receives the incorrect specimen type for Vitamin B1 (145/B1) and Heavy Metals, Blood (146/HMB). In the past, we have searched for an alternate laboratory or test to perform the requested testing on the specimen type received. In order to provide the highest quality testing and patient care, effective July 1, 2007, only the required specimen will be acceptable. All other specimens received will be rejected.

Test Name: ***VITAMIN B 1, WHOLE BLOOD***

Test Number: 145/VB1

Collect: 3 ml Whole Blood - EDTA

Container: Amber Plastic Transfer Vial

Processing: Send Whole Blood, Protected from Light

Transport/Stability: Frozen

Alternate Names: Thiamine, B 1

Performing Lab: Quest Diagnostics (5042)

Days Set Up: M, W, F

Expected TAT: 6 - 8 Days

Ref. Ranges: 87 - 280 nMol/L

Collection/

Processing Details: PROTECT SPECIMEN FROM LIGHT. Immediately after collection pour WHOLE BLOOD into amber transfer vial and Freeze.

CPT Codes: 84425-90

Test Name: ***HEAVY METALS, BLOOD***

Test Number: 146/HMB

Collect: 7ml Whole Blood

Container: Navy Blue Trace Metal (EDTA or Heparin)

Processing: Do Not Spin - Do Not Open

Transport/Stability: Refrigerated

Performing Lab: MedTox (#61077)

Collection/

Processing Details: Store tube upright to prevent prolonged contact with cork. Includes arsenic, lead and mercury. Lead form must accompany requisition and sample.

CPT Codes: 83018-90 x3(3/21/05)

SUPPLIES

❖ 24Hr Urine Patient Instruction Letters

Effective immediately, AM will not be sending individual 24 Hr Urine Patient Instruction letters with each 24 Hr Urine Jug ordered.

Instruction letters for your patients are available two ways. Individual copies can be printed out from our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories. From the Home Page

- Click on Reference Manual
- Click on Specimen Collection Instructions
- Click on Patient Urine Collection Instructions
- Click on File and then Print, or the click on the Printer Icon in your browser bar

If you prefer pads of the letters, pads of 25 letters each can be ordered on our on line Supply Catalog. From the AML home page above

- Click on Supply Catalog
- Click on Forms – Information Pads.

You'll find the letters at the very bottom of the Forms – Information Pads page.

If you need complete instructions on the use of our on line Supply Catalog, please contact your AML Account Representative for further instructions.

For your convenience, a copy of the letter has also been included with this newsletter.

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.

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