



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
SEPTEMBER 2007
UPDATE
SPECIAL EDITION**

During our transition to Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) as our managed send out program vendor, we will be publishing our Update Newsletter on a monthly basis. Spreadsheets containing test change information taking place since the last newsletter distribution will be included each month.

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2007

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ CLINICAL REQUEST BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to expedite billing to either your vendor account, or patient's insurance, as well as prevent additional re-work for both AML Billing and your clinic/office staff, it is imperative that all necessary information be included on the initial patient requisition.

When submitting a requisition to AML, please be sure to include the following information:

If you wish us to bill your clinic or facility vendor account:

- You must mark "Clinic/Facility" in the Bill to Field
- Date and Time of Collection
- Patient's Complete Name (Last, First, MI)
- Patients' SSN
- Patient's DOB
- Patients' Sex
- Patient's Telephone Number

If you wish us to bill the patient directly:

- You must mark "Patient (Self-Pay)" in the Bill To field
- Date and Time of Collection
- Patient's Complete Name (Last, First, MI)
- Patients' SSN
- Patient's DOB
- Patients' Sex
- Patient's Complete Address (Street, City, State and Zip)
- Patient's Telephone Number
- Diagnosis Code or Codes to the highest specificity possible, or clear diagnostic symptoms
- Guarantor's name and address if patient is under 18 years of age

If you want AML to bill Medicare, Medicaid or other third-party payors:

- You must mark "Insurance" in the Bill To field
- Date and Time of Collection
- Patient's Complete Name (Last, First, MI)
- Patients' SSN
- Patient's DOB
- Patients' Sex
- Patient's Complete Address (Street, City, State and Zip)
- Patient's Telephone Number
- Diagnosis Code or Codes to the highest specificity possible, or clear diagnostic symptoms
- Guarantor's name and address if patient is under 18 years of age
- For Medicare patients only, you must indicate if Medicare is Primary or Secondary
- Medicare , Medical Assistance Number
- Commercial Insurance Member/Policy #
- Policy Holder (if not patient)
- Policy Holder's Date of Birth (If not patient)
- Group #
- Clinic # (If required)
- Commercial Insurance Company Name
- Diagnosis Code or Codes to the highest specificity possible, or clear diagnostic symptoms

CHEMISTRY

❖ INSULIN SPECIMEN STABILITY CHANGE

AML has received notification from our reagent manufacturer that the specimen stability for Insulin has been decreased from 72 hours to 24 hours at 2-8°C. ***Due to this change, effective immediately, we are requesting that all Insulin specimens be submitted to AML frozen.***

Please spin, separate into a false bottom transport vial, and freeze all Insulin specimens. A request has been sent to Allina LIS to change the Ultra collection label to reflect the change in processing as soon as possible, and the AML on line Collection Manual will also be updated to reflect this change.

Test Name:	Insulin
Test Code:	141 / INS
Collect:	1 mL Serum
Container:	False Bottom Plastic Transfer Vial
Processing:	Spin, Separate and Freeze
Transport:	Frozen
Stability:	24 Hours at 2 - 8°C, 6 months at - 20°C
Days Performed:	Monday - Saturday
Turn Around Time:	1-2 Days
Reference Range:	< 17 u/ml
Method:	ECLIA - Electrochemiluminescence

If you have any questions in regards to this change, please contact your AML Account Representative.

❖ H PYLORI IGA TESTING BROUGHT IN-HOUSE

On Tuesday, August 28th, 2007 Allina Medical Laboratories began performing H. Pylori IgA testing in-house.

Test Name	H. Pylori IgA	
Test Code:	343 / HYA	
Specimen:	1ml Serum	
Container:	Serum Separator Tube (SST)	
Processing:	Spin	
Transport:	Refrigerated	
Methodology:	Enzyme Immunoassay	
Days Performed:	Tuesday, Friday	
Turn Around Time:	3 Days	
Reference Range:	< 0.89 Elisa Value	
Special		
Instructions:	Specimen stable 7 days	refrigerated, 1 month
at -20 ^o C		
CPT Code	86677	
List Price	\$20.50	

Helicobacter pylori IgG and IgA antibody seroconversion occurs together after 60 days. Samples which have a high titer of both IgG and IgA antibodies to H. pylori in symptomatic individuals may be considered to represent an active infection. However, a positive H. pylori IgA result can only suggest active infection and should be confirmed by bacterial isolation or other diagnostic testing.

❖ FOLIC ACID REFERENCE RANGE CHANGED

On **Tuesday August 28, 2007** the Reference Range for Folic Acid (Folate – 103/FOL) changed. The new Reference Range is:

Old Reference Range:	4.0 - 20 ng/mL
New Reference Range:	>9.1 ng/mL

In 1996, the FDA issued a regulation requiring all enriched grain products to be fortified with Folic Acid (Folate). This has caused serum Folate levels in the population to rise requiring an adjustment to the current reference interval.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

❖ What Everyone Should Know About Melanoma & Other Skin Cancers

On October 30th, Dr Robert Werling will be speaking at our next AML Continuing Education offering.

This presentation will be held at the Mercy Auditorium with registration from 6-6:30pm and the one hour presentation beginning at 6:30pm.

The program will provide a description of common skin tumors, melanomas at an early stage and prognostic factors and treatment for melanomas. One hour of PACE continuing education credit will be available.

Watch for event and registration information in your mailbox soon, or visit the Continuing Education link on our website at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories.

SUPPLIES

❖ TWO NEW SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

AML is offering two new supplies for our clients: an 8.5ml plain red top tube, and in response to requests from our Hospital and Surgery Center clients a larger, 450ml, formalin jar.

Each of these supplies is available via our electronic Supply Catalog located at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories. If you have any questions about these new supplies or use of our electronic Supply Catalog, please contact your AML Account Representative.

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.

❖ MANUAL REQUISITIONS

If you are submitting a manual requisition form to AML please make sure that all necessary information is included on the requisition, and that the information is legible. If patient management labels are available, they can be used, with one label being placed on each copy of the requisition. If labels are not available, please print the required information.

❖ EMAIL NEWSLETTER AND NOTICES AVAILABLE

The Update Newsletter as well as Test Change Notices are available in email format. If you are currently not receiving this information via email, but would like to, please contact your AML Account Representative.

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories