

FLETCHER ALLEN HEALTH CARE

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

LABORATORY COMMUNIQUÉ OCTOBER 2010

Patient Service Center Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 25: CLOSED ALL SITES

Friday, November 26: Ambulatory Care Center 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fanny Allen Campus 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
UHC Campus 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Patients that require a stat or timed draw should go to Registration located in the Ambulatory Care Center, Level 3 (street level) and a phlebotomist will be paged.

Regularly scheduled hours will apply to any days not specifically addressed above.

To view our regularly scheduled Patient Service Center hours, please go to <http://www.fletcherallen.org/drawsites> or call Laboratory Customer Service for assistance, 847-5121 or 1-800-991-2799.

New Phlebotomy Site on the Horizon

University Health Center (UHC), located at one South Prospect Street, is currently being renovated and will open October 18, 2010 as a new public specimen collection site for Fletcher Allen laboratory. This expanded area will offer 4 chairs, pediatric phlebotomy, a private draw room and a child friendly waiting area in addition to adult specimen collection. The site will be open Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We hope that you will encourage your patients to utilize the UHC Campus as their primary specimen collection site. Starting early in 2011, the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) collection site will be available only to patients with an appointment at the ACC on the same day.

Collections will still be available at our Fanny Allen Campus, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Patients that require a STAT or timed draw on off hours should still be instructed to present at the level 3 (street level) main registration in the ACC and a phlebotomist will be paged.

Laboratory Operations

PSC Thanksgiving Holiday Hours
New Phlebotomy Site on the Horizon

Tech Tip

Sample Retention Time

Test News

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TECH TIPS

Sample Retention Time

We frequently receive requests to add additional testing on to existing samples. We keep most samples for 5 days with samples being discarded on the morning of day 6. Occasionally if a test has been added on or the testing was not performed on the same day the sample was received we may have the sample for longer.

Urines samples for urinalysis are discarded on day 4 after the testing is complete.

We are happy to add on testing to existing samples where analyte stability permits.

TEST NEWS

Test Announcements

Test Update: *Cardiolipin Antibody* 8/31/2010

New Test: *von Willebrand Factor (VWF) Activity* 8/23/2010

For a complete review of new tests and test updates please go to www.fletcherallen.org/path_testupdates

CA125 Change Reportable Range:

The manufacturer of the reagents for the CA125 assay used on the Vitros ECI/3600 system (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics) has changed the lower limit of the reportable range from the current 1 U/mL to 6 U/mL. This change took effect on September 20, 2010.

Creatinine, Urine Change in Lower Reporting Limit

In order to follow regulatory guidelines for assay standardization, the Laboratory will change the measured lower limit for urine creatinine from 1.1 mg/dL to 5.0 mg/dL. This change will take place on October 6, 2010. This will impact very few patients. If the creatinine is performed as part of a microalbumin assay and the value is reported as less than 5 mg/dL, the albumin to creatinine ratio will not be calculated. If you have any questions concerning this change, please contact Dr. Greg Sharp in the Laboratory (gregory.sharp@vtmednet.org).

Fetal Fibronectin Results

The Laboratory has changed the way Fetal Fibronectin (RFFN) results are handled. Only positive results will be called to the ordering physician. Negative results will not be called.

HIV Test Results

As of October 18, 2010 the Laboratory will change the notification process for HIV test results. The first change involves routine HIV testing. Laboratory Customer Service will now be allowed to release results to the authorized healthcare provider. Prior to this, results could only be released by a Pathologist in the Laboratory. This should streamline the process for physicians who do not have access to PRISM. The second change involves Rapid HIV Testing which is used predominantly in cases of needle stick exposure. Technologists in the testing area will call only positive Rapid HIV Testing to the healthcare provider. Both positive and negative results will be available in PRISM as soon as the test is performed. *If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact Dr. Greg Sharp (gregory.sharp@vtmednet.org) in the Laboratory.*

TEST NEWS

Bacterial Pharyngitis: Changes in Microbiology Culture Menu

The Microbiology Laboratory introduces a new test for detection of the important bacterial causes of acute pharyngitis:

1. Group A beta hemolytic streptococcus (any quantity)
2. *Arcanobacterium hemolyticum* (any quantity)
3. Groups C or G beta hemolytic streptococcus (pure or predominant growth)
4. In addition, pure or predominant growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* will be reported. (There is controversy about whether this organism is etiologic or represents overgrowth after suppression of usual flora.)

Order: Pharyngitis Culture (replaces Strep Culture Group A, test code: THSC).

Note: The following organisms require separate requests: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, and viral pathogens. Full throat culture will no longer be available.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact Dr. Washington Winn (washington.winn@vtmednet.org) in the Laboratory.

Factor Assay Misorders

Please pay close attention when placing orders for genetic testing. The test code for Prothrombin gene mutation is PROGMU. This test requires a lavender top tube. If you place an order for Factor 2 Assay we will draw a blue top tube and you will get a factor 2 level, NOT the genetic test.

The test code for Factor V Leiden is FACT5L. This requires a lavender top tube. If you place an order for Factor 5, we will draw a blue top and you will get a Factor 5 level, NOT the genetic test.

Test Name	Test Code	Container
Prothrombin G20210A Mutation	PROGMU	Lavender Top Tube
Factor 2 Assay	FA2	Blue Top Tube
Factor V Leiden	FACT5L	Lavender Top Tube
Factor 5 Assay	FA5	Blue Top Tube

Sugar Water Test Discontinued

On August 1, the laboratory discontinued the Sugar Water Test. This test was used principally in the work up of paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH). It has been rendered largely obsolete by a far more specific and efficient peripheral blood assay, the PI-linked antigen by flow cytometry, offered as a test sent out to Mayo Medical Laboratory (Mayo test code 81156).

To view the most up to date test information, go to our online test catalog at

www.fletcherallen.org/testcatalog

Enter the test name or test code into the appropriate box and press "SEARCH".

For MML tests, press on the Mayo Test Number link for more test information.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Physician Signatures on Orders

We are now requesting physician signature on all outpatient laboratory orders. This is a requirement for orders on patients who have New York Medicaid. In the future, it is likely to become a requirement for all payers. Stamped signatures are not acceptable. Orders that come electronically from your practice management software into our laboratory information system are acceptable.

There is a signature line on the bottom of your laboratory form. If the sample is collected in your office, please send the top copy of the form with the patient sample.



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