

FLETCHER ALLEN HEALTH CARE

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

LABORATORY COMMUNIQUE JULY 2008

Patient Service Center Hours

Regular Phlebotomy Hours

Medical Center Campus
Ambulatory Care Center (ACC)
Laboratory Services
Main Pavilion, Level 2 (Orange Level)
Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fanny Allen Campus-Laboratory
Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Summer Holiday Phlebotomy Hours

Independence Day (Friday, July 4) Medical Center Campus: PHLEBOTOMY CLOSED
Fanny Allen Campus: PHLEBOTOMY CLOSED

Labor Day (Monday, September 3) Medical Center Campus, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Fanny Allen Campus, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If Phlebotomy is closed and you have a patient who requires a timed or STAT test, please instruct him or her to go to the Information Desk at the main entrance to the Ambulatory Care Center (level 3) for assistance. After the patient has been directed to the registration area, a phlebotomist will be paged.

Mayo Pediatric Reference Value Book Available

The 2008 Mayo Medical Laboratories Pediatric Reference Value Book is now available. This book details pediatric reference ranges for tests offered by Mayo when such information is available. If you would like a copy, please contact Lab Customer Service at 847-5121.

Lab Operations

Patient Service Center Hours
Mayo Pediatric Reference
Book

New Paper for Lab reports

From the Lab Bench

Getting Samples Ready
for the Lab

Test News

Buprenorphine Test Change
Celiac disease Testing
Cortisol Stim. Test vs
ACTH Quatification

Compliance Update

New ABN Form on Horizon

New Paper for Lab Reports Printed in the Laboratory

Beginning on June 16, 2008, reports printed in the laboratory will be printed on white paper instead of colored stationery. The formatting of the text will remain essentially the same, except for the addition of a side bar at the right-hand margin that will identify the document as either a Pathology Report or a Clinical Lab Report.

This change will not affect you if your lab reports are printed in your office.

The shift to white paper will allow us to reduce our carbon footprint by avoiding pre-printed stationery, and it will improve our operational efficiency by reducing paper expenses and the staff time spent managing multiple paper types. The revised electronic format will also be suitable for integration into the electronic health record.

FROM THE LAB BENCH

Getting Samples Ready for the Lab

Each office is responsible for getting samples ready for the courier to pick up for delivery to the lab, and we appreciate your help with this. In order to ensure optimal service for all of our clients, we would like to remind you that samples should be packaged and ready to go prior to the courier arriving. Each time the courier has to wait for a sample, other offices or clients are likely to be inconvenienced by a delayed sample pickup.

Please review the following checklist each time you package samples:

- √ Inspect each primary container (the container in direct contact with the sample) prior to packaging for courier pick-up. Look for evidence of leaks and please carefully turn screw-capped containers upside down to ensure that their lids are on securely. A leaky sample may contaminate other patients' samples and may render one or more samples unacceptable for testing.
- √ Put the requisitions corresponding to the samples in the back pocket of the specimen transport bag. If a patient has multiple samples that require storage at different temperatures, place a copy of the laboratory requisition with each sample.
- √ On the front of each bag check off the storage requirement for the samples contained within; This ensures that the courier will store the samples appropriately during transport.
- √ Keep a record of what you give to the courier for transport. Make sure you have packed all of the samples for the tests requested. The back copy of the laboratory requisition is for your office to use as documentation that samples were sent. The lab requisition also has a spot for you to date and initial when the report is received in your lab, if you choose to use it.
- √ Make sure that samples with different storage requirements (e.g., different temperatures) are packaged separately. Store the specimens as indicated until courier pick-up and please make sure that all of the specimens are handed off to the courier upon arrival.
- √ If testing is STAT, place a STAT sticker on the same side as the storage requirements, and notify the lab (847-5121) and the courier that the testing is STAT.
- √ If a sample container has a flat bottom, it should be placed so that it sits upright.

Specimen Transport Bags

All primary sample containers must be contained inside a secondary or outer container. The secondary container must be a watertight barrier, such as a sealed plastic bag. The secondary packaging must have a biohazard warning attached to it. The exterior of the outer container must remain clean so that the package can be carried safely without wearing gloves.

Plastic biohazard bags are available to use as a secondary container for laboratory samples. These bags have an outer sleeve in which to place the laboratory requisition and an inner sleeve in which the primary sample container can be sealed. We provide biohazard bags in several different sizes for use by offices and hospitals that send samples to us. Below is a summary of guidelines for use of plastic biohazard bags.

Bag Size Usage

- Small:** For hospital use only. Dimensions: 6 x 8.5 inches.
Holds a maximum of 6 samples. Bags are color coded by temperature: white for room temperature, pink for refrigerated, and yellow for frozen. These bags contain a sheet of absorbent material.
- Medium:** For doctors' offices, clinics, and inpatient units. Dimensions: 8 x 12 inches.
Holds a maximum of 12 samples.
Package samples by temperature; check temperature box that applies. These bags do not contain absorbent material.
- Large:** All clients. Dimensions: 12 x 13.5 inches.
Holds a maximum of 20 samples.
Package samples by temperature; check temperature box that applies. These bags do not contain absorbent material.

It is important not to overfill specimen transport bags. If there are too many samples in a bag, some of the specimens may not be maintained at the proper temperature.

Samples may also be placed into a Styrofoam holder. Styrofoam holders are not watertight, so these must be sealed inside a plastic bag or sealed plastic container.

Temperature Requirements

Please package similar sample types that are transported at the same temperature together, and keep disparate sample types separate. For example, blood that is transported refrigerated should not go into the same bag as urine or a swab for microbiology testing, and Thin Preps should not go into the same package as a Genprobe.

Refrigerated Specimens: 21°C (Wet Ice)

- Place all refrigerated blood tubes and Genprobe samples into a medium-sized (small for hospitals) specimen bag (or bags) with accompanying requisitions.
- Place all other refrigerated samples, i.e. urines or swabs, into a separate medium-sized specimen bag (or bags) with accompanying requisitions.
- Hospitals Only: Place smaller bags into a large specimen bag. Mark bag as refrigerated.

Frozen Specimens: 4°C (Dry Ice)

- Place all frozen specimens in a medium-sized (small for hospitals) specimen bag with a copy of each requisition. Mark bag as frozen.

Ambient Specimens: 21°-25°C (Room Temperature)

- Place ambient specimens in a medium-sized (small for hospitals) specimen bag (or bags) with accompanying requisitions. Mark bag as ambient.

PAP Test (Ambient Temperature)

- Place up to 2 Thin Prep vials into a small or medium-sized bag, with one copy of accompanying requisition. Mark PAP SMEAR on the outside of the bag.
- Hospitals: Place no more than 10 small bags in a large bag. Mark PAP Test on the outside of the bag.

Surgical Pathology Specimens (Ambient Temperature)

- Place specimens from the same patient in one medium-sized bag with requisition. Mark Surgical Pathology on bag.
- Hospitals: Place all Surgical Pathology specimens in large bag. Mark Surgical Pathology on bag.

24-Hour Urine Jugs (Temperature Varies)

Two-liter (half gallon) brown jugs may contain any of a variety of preservatives; store at the temperature appropriate for the particular preservative. Urine jugs must always be transported in an upright position inside a large specimen bag.

Pathline Users: 24-Hour urine samples should be on a separate order.

TEST NEWS

Buprenorphine Test Change

Beginning Wednesday, May 21, 2008, we will change the Buprenorphine test that is sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories from the Buprenorphine and Metabolite Screen to the Buprenorphine, Total test. This change will provide a cost savings for our patients. The original methodology included a screening test for buprenorphine, with reflex quantification for patients who tested positive. The Buprenorphine, Total test eliminates the screen and is appropriate for monitoring therapeutic buprenorphine levels in patients known to be taking this medication.

Ordering Information:

Test Name: Buprenorphine, Total

Test Code: BUTOTL

Mayo Test Number: 91779

Sample Requirements: Collect a random urine and submit 1.0 mL refrigerated in a plastic container.
Minimum Volume: 0.3 mL

Testing Performed: Tuesday, Thursday

Reference Range: See report

Price: Contact Laboratory Customer Service (847-5121 or 1-800-991-2799) for pricing information.

CPT Code: 83925

Effective Date: May 21, 2008

Celiac Disease Testing

Celiac disease is a common chronic inflammatory bowel condition. Although patients often present with the classic (typical) form of the disease with diarrhea, weight loss, or symptoms that suggest malabsorption or anemia, some patients may have an atypical form that may present with non-specific abdominal pain, esophageal reflux, osteoporosis, insulin dependent diabetes, or neurological symptoms ¹.

While the presentation of the disease may be complex, testing for serologic markers (tissue transglutaminase antibodies (IgG and IgA), and in special cases endomysial antibodies (IgA)) , when combined with the clinical presentation, offers an effective means for identifying patients to target for duodenal biopsy.

A link to an algorithmic guideline from the Mayo Clinic is shown below:

<http://www.mayoreferenceservices.org/it-mmfiles/CeliacDiseaseColor0207.pdf>

¹Hopper AD, Cross SS, et al. Pre-endoscopy serological testing for celiac disease: evaluation of a clinical decision tool. *BMJ* 2007;334:729.

Cortisol Stimulation Test vs ACTH Quantification: Clarification for Proper Ordering of the Cortisol Stimulation Test

The following information is being provided to help clarify the ordering of the Cortisol Stimulation Test.

Effective July 14, 2008, the test name, test codes, and bracket codes will change for the Cortisol Stimulation Test to prevent confusion between the ordering of the Cortisol Stimulation Test vs. an ACTH quantitative level, which is sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories (please refer to the information below). When completing the requisition for a Cortisol Stimulation Test, indicate Cortisol baseline, Cortisol 30 minutes, and Cortisol 60 minutes, and label the samples appropriately. If there are any questions about the ordering of a Cortisol Stimulation Test, please contact a Lead in Specimen Receiving at 847-5121.

The Cortisol Stimulation Test is performed by measuring serum cortisol levels before and after intravenous administration of Cortrosyn, a synthetic ACTH. Serum levels are drawn immediately prior to Cortrosyn administration (baseline) and 30 and 60 minutes after Cortrosyn injection. The test results are cortisol levels; however, the test should be ordered as a Cortisol Stimulation Test to ensure that the proper reference ranges are attached.

Cortisol Stimulation Test: Sample Requirement - 0.5 ml of refrigerated serum for each timepoint
baseline, 30 minutes and 60 minutes.

New Test Name:	New Test Code	New Bracket Code
Cortisol, Baseline	CORTB	5398
Cortisol, 30 minutes	CORT30	5399
Cortisol, 60 minutes	CORT60	5400

Old Test Name:	
Cort, ACTH Stim Base	Test Code: ACTHB
Cort, ACTH Stim 30 min	Test Code: ACTH30
Cort, ACTH Stim 60 min	Test Code: ACTH60

If quantification of ACTH is also required, please also order Mayo Test #8411: ACTH, Plasma.

ACTH, Plasma (Mayo Test # 8411): Sample Requirement - Blood should be drawn in ice-cooled EDTA tube and sent to Specimen Receiving on ice.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

New version of the Advance Beneficiary Notice on the horizon

CMS (Medicare) has announced that a new Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) must be implemented by all providers, including laboratories, by September 1, 2008.

Some of the key components of the revised ABN include:

- A new official title, the “Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN),” in order to more clearly convey the purpose of the notice;
- A mandatory field for cost estimates of the items/services at issue; and
- A new beneficiary option, under which an individual may choose to receive an item/service, and pay for it out-of-pocket, rather than have a claim submitted to Medicare. This can be useful when the form is used as a “voluntary” notice of excluded screening service or other non-covered service.

Fletcher Allen Health Care is in the process of revising both the paper and PathLINE version of the form. We will let our clients know when the new forms are available.

To view the actual form and the corresponding instructions, see the link below.

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/02_ABNGABNL.asp



*In alliance with
The University of Vermont*

A Publication of
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