



**ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES
JUNE 2008
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ALLINA MEDICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

JUNE 2008

BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

❖ CPT Code Changes

Due to instrument changes and new test members, the CPT codes for several tests that AML refers to outside laboratories have recently changed. A spreadsheet attached to this message details each of the changes.

CHEMISTRY

❖ 25-OH Vitamin D Total

25-OH Vitamin D plays a key role in the maintenance of mineral balance and skeletal integrity. Long associated only with its role in bone formation; Vitamin D is actually active throughout the human body, influencing immune system responses and cell defenses.

Total Vitamin D is made up of the subunits D2 and D3 and is not really a vitamin since D3 can be synthesized by the skin after sunshine exposure. The main cause of Vitamin D deficiency is lack of sun exposure (with clothing) not compensated by diet. Vitamin D deficiency is a growing health problem because of lack of exposure to sunlight and insufficient dietary intake.

The major dietary sources of Vitamin D3 are oily fish (salmon, mackerel). Vitamin D2 comes from yeasts and plants and has about the same potency as Vitamin D3 in humans. However, the contribution of this metabolite in the diet is very low with the exception of vegetarians. Vitamin D can also be obtained from fish liver oils, foods fortified with Vitamin D, multivitamins and Vitamin D preparations. Fortified food or supplements may contain Vitamin D2 and/or Vitamin D3.

AML will begin performing Vitamin D Total (113/VTD) in-house on the DiaSorin Liaison analyzer mid to late July. The LIAISON 25-OH Vitamin D Total Assay is a fully automated antibody-based chemiluminescence assay for the direct measurement of 25-OH Vitamin D in human serum or plasma. This assay recognizes 100% of 25-OH Vitamin D2 and 25-OH Vitamin D3. The Liaison Vitamin D Total assay is not affected by the C-3 epimer, an inactive form of 25-OH Vitamin D, which can cause falsely elevated Vitamin D levels in infants.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

❖ Client Phone Contact with AML

AML Reference Laboratory clients who have questions about specimens, orders, tests results, courier needs etc, should contact AML Customer Service at 612-863-4678.

Calls made directly to the Allina Metro Hospital Laboratory sites (ANW, Mercy, Unity and United) are being gradually transitioned to an AML Call Center which provides services for the Allina Inpatient/Outpatient population. Calls received from Reference Laboratory clients at the Call Center are transferred to AML Customer Service, so calling Customer Service at the number above will be the most direct way to get the information you need.

The most recent site transition to the Call Center occurred earlier this month when the Mercy Hospital Laboratory transitioned incoming calls to the AML Call Center.

Our AML Customer Service staff has access to records of testing done at each of the Allina sites, and they look forward to providing you with the highest quality of service.

HEMATOLOGY/COAGULATION

❖ Sedimentation Rate Stability Clarified

The AML online Collection Manual entry for the Sedimentation Rate (ESR/503) Collection and Processing Details has been revised to clarify the stability for this specimen.

The information for this test previously read "Should arrive at reference lab within 5 hours of collection". The new information reads: "Should arrive at reference lab within 5 hours of collection. If not, refrigerate and send as soon as possible, can be run up to 24 hours after draw. Add-on testing may be requested up to 24 hours if sample is refrigerated".

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your AML Account Representative.

LAB RECEPTION

❖ Metro Site Hours of Operation

In response to feedback from our customers, we have reevaluated our metro hospital reception area weekend hours of operation for the collection of specimens from reference lab patients.

Allina Metro hospitals, Abbott Northwestern, Mercy, Unity and United, will continue to offer specimen collection and drop off for your patients on Saturday and Sunday, for date sensitive specimens only during the defined hours of operation listed below. Metro reception area staffing on weekends will be limited, and patients for routine testing such as TSH, A1C, PSA and maternal glucose tolerance testing etc. should be directed to have these specimens collected during the week.

These sites will not be open for specimen collection or drop off on holidays.

Routine Reference Lab specimen collection and drop off at the Allina Metro hospital sites will be accommodated during the following days/hours:

- Monday – Friday: 6 am – 6 pm

Date Sensitive Reference Lab specimen collection and specimen drop off ONLY:

- Saturday & Sunday: 7–11:30am and 12:30-3 pm
- **CLOSED FROM 11:30am - 12:30pm**
- **CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS**

All requests for testing must be accompanied by an order from the provider, either in an electronic or a paper format. ***PATIENTS THAT PRESENT WITHOUT AN ORDER, EITHER ELECTRONIC OR PAPER, WILL NOT BE ACCOMMODATED.***

SENDOUTS

❖ Epstein Barr Viral Capsid Testing Specimen Processing & Transport Changes

Please note that both the Specimen Processing & Transport/Stability information for the EBV VCA IgG (2809/EVG) and EBV VCA IgM (2810/EVM) in our on line Collection Manual have been changed.

Each of these tests previously instructed clients to spin and separate the serum, and to transport to AML at refrigerated temperatures.

Because specimens for these tests must be transported to Mayo Medical Laboratories - New England for testing, the transport temperature has been updated to reflect that the specimens must be submitted frozen.

An alternative to these two tests is the EBV Ab IgG, IgM & EBNA (1809/EBV). This test includes the IgG and IgM as well as the Capsid Ag. It is performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) Rochester Campus, allowing a faster turn around time than the above testing.

❖ LD Isoenzymes Specimen Transport Temperature Change

We have received communication from Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) that effective immediately, the transport temperature for LD Isoenzymes (4339/LDI) has been changed to ambient. Following is an explanation from MML:

“LD isoenzyme four and five are known to be cold labile. Clinically LD-I testing is primarily used for the detection of the macro form of LDH which is minimally affected by temperature since all isoenzymes are involved in the macro complex. However, LD isoenzymes are still being used to describe liver function. To improve patient care by improving method performance, studies were performed by our laboratory to examine LD isoenzymes’ variability due to transport and storage conditions. Our work bore out the lability of LD isoenzymes four and five on transport and storage particularly in frozen samples. This was less pronounced in refrigerated samples particularly if they were assayed within two days. Ambient serum provided the best, most stable and consistent diagnostic performance over the three storage conditions studied.

Past requirements of refrigerated samples was an attempt to protect samples from exposure to elevated temperatures which could occur during shipping. The risk of this exposure has decreased with the improvements in transportation and the packaging material. Therefore, after careful consideration, the temperature requirement for storage and transport of sera for LD-I testing will be changed as indicated from refrigerated to ambient.”

The AML on line Collection Manual has been updated to reflect this change.

Test Name: LD, ISOENZYMES
Test Number: 4339/LDI
Collect: 2.0 ml Serum - Plain Red
Peds Collect: 1.0 ml Serum - Plain Red
Alternate Collect: SST
Container: MAYO - Screw Cap Transfer Vial
Processing: Spin and Separate
Transport/Stability: **Ambient**
Performing Lab: Mayo Medical Labs (8679)
Collection/
Processing Details: If SST is drawn please transfer to screw cap vial before transport.

❖ **Rubella Antibodies, IgM, Obsolete**

AML has received the following notice from Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML):

“EXPLANATION: In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the absence of endemic transmission of rubella in the United States, largely due to successful vaccination programs. Fewer than 10 cases of rubella were reported in 2004, and the majority of these cases occurred in individuals born outside the United States. The incidence of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) has also been significantly reduced, with a total of 4 cases of CRS being reported to the CDC during 2001-2004.

Given the low prevalence of rubella in the United States, routine serologic testing for IgM-class antibodies to this virus may yield false positive results, which can negatively impact patient care. This is especially problematic when rubella IgM testing is included in the routine screening of asymptomatic, pregnant women.

Beginning July 1, 2008, Mayo Medical Laboratories **will no longer forward any specimens for rubella IgM-class antibody testing.** If acute rubella or CRS is suspected, it is recommended to communicate with your state health laboratory or the CDC to evaluate your patient.

(MML) Unit Code #91546 Rubella IgM Antibody, ELISA (Serum) forwarded to Focus Diagnostics will become obsolete on July 1, 2008.”

❖ GC trachomatis/psittaci Culture Clarification

According to Focus Laboratories, the reference laboratory that performs the Chlamydia trachomatis/psittaci Culture (8125/CTP), this test has only seven acceptable specimen types:

1. Cervical or Urethral swabs *
2. Cervical or Urethral scrapings *
3. Fallopian tube aspirate
4. Rectal swab
5. Conjunctival swab
6. Nasopharyngeal aspirate
7. Nasopharyngeal swab

* This is an acceptable specimen type for this test; however, the recommended test for Endocervical or Urethral swabs is the *GC & CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS PROBE (6746/GCC)* unless you are checking for test of cure.

AML has been receiving throat swabs for the 8125/CPT - this is NOT an acceptable source (it must be Nasopharyngeal) and will be rejected. Please note that specimens received on wooden shafted swabs are also unacceptable and will be rejected.

Test Name:	CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS/PSITTACI CULTURE
Test Number:	8125/CTP
Container:	Refrigerated M5 Viral Transport Media
Alternate Collect:	M4 – Must be refrigerated immediately
Processing:	Submit Entire Specimen
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated: < 48 hours; Frozen >48 hours; Ambient: NO
Performing Lab:	Focus Diagnostics via Mayo (91659)
Processing Details:	Preferred for Chlamydia testing is the Probe PCR test #6744/CHP.
Method:	Tissue Culture/ Immunofluorescence
CPT Codes:	87110-90 (Culture) 87140-90 (Typing if appropriate)

SUPPLIES

❖ Glucose Tolerance Beverage Recall Notice

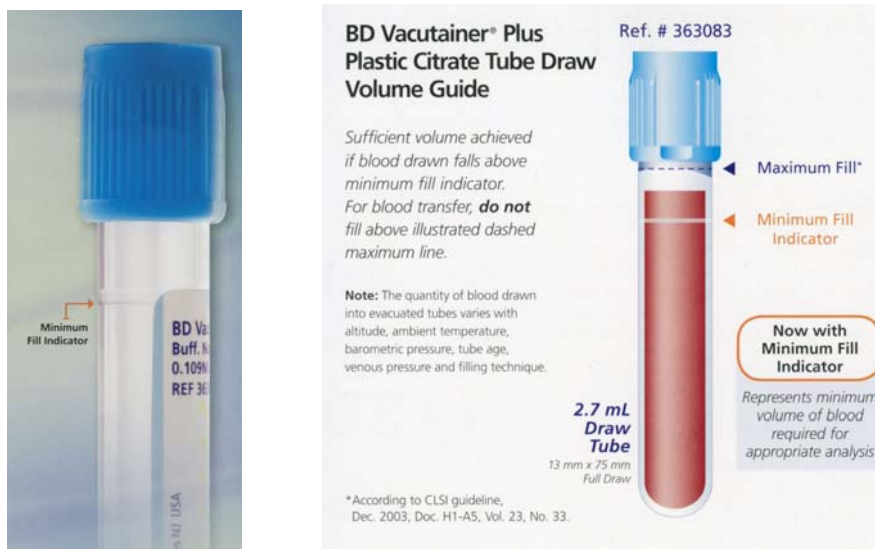
Allina Medical Laboratories (AML) has received notice of a product recall involving **Cardinal Health S/P Orange 50g Glucose Tolerance Beverage, catalog #B5395-7A**. This recall affects lot #4067, with an expiration date of **December 12, 2009**.

Allina Medical Laboratories received shipment of this lot number in January of this year. If you obtain glucose tolerance beverage from AML, please examine your supplies for this lot number as soon as possible. If you have received any bottles of this lot number, please return them to AML via your first available courier.

❖ New 2.7ml Draw Citrate Tube

Allina Medical Laboratories has begun using and distributing a new 2.7ml Sodium Citrate tube. This tube is the new BD Vacutainer Plus Plastic Citrate Tube.

Filling citrate tubes with the recommended volume is very important in order to obtain quality results. With this new tube, BD has added a *minimum fill indicator* which is molded on the tube (pictured below on the left). This indicator represents the *minimum* volume of blood required for analysis. Sufficient specimen is present if the level is above the indicator line. If a specimen is received with a level below the line by any amount, it will be rejected. Tubes should not be filled to a level above the dashed line indicated in the picture on the right below.



Please note that this 2.7ml tube **is not** to be used for the collection of specimens for special coag testing.

WEB SITE

Allina Medical Laboratories has an online Collection Manual to provide our clients with up to date specimen collection information, as well as an on line Supply Order Catalog, giving you the opportunity to place your supply orders electronically.

Each of these can be reached from our AML homepage at www.allina.com/medicallaboratories.

If you have any questions about either the online Collection Manual or Supply Catalog, please contact your AML Account Representative for assistance.

❖ **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.

❖ **Submitting Specimens via FedEx**

When submitting specimens to AML via FedEx, it is very important that on the day of shipment, a copy of the requisition and air bill is faxed to AML Customer Service at 612-863-4067.

This process alerts AML staff that a specimen should be arriving, and provides us with the information needed to initiate tracking of the package should the package not be delivered when expected.

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

www.allina.com/medicallaboratories