# LabConnect

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Storage of 24 hour urine jugs with preservative

#### Website

New website up and running!

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# BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

# **Additional plans following Medicare Medical Necessity guidelines**

In addition to the Humana Gold MR, Medica Advantage MR, Medica Dual Solutions MSHO, Medica Prime Solutions MR, UCARE Medicare Complete, UCARE Medicare Plans MR (including UCARE for Seniors and UCARE Medicare Advantage plans), medical necessity guidelines are now also in effect for Allina Health Aetna MR and BCBS Medicare replacement plans.

Going forward, waivers will need to be collected on the patients that have these plans for any testing that does not meet medical necessity requirements. A list that includes the affected tests as well as a waiver, can be found on the medical necessity tab of the <u>Lab billing</u> page of our website.

#### **COAGULATION**

# **Protein C activity changes**

On January 7, 2020, Allina Health Laboratory changed from a clotting assay to a Chromogenic assay methodology for the performance of the Protein C activity (5756/85303.0).

Due to the change in methodology, the following changes to the reference range also went into effect:

	Previous	New
Reference range	70-140%	70-150%

# **MICROBIOLOGY**

#### Clostridium difficile toxin PCR

On January 14, 2020 Allina Health Laboratory instituted a multi-step algorithm for testing and reporting *C. difficile* results. Positive *C. difficile* toxin PCR tests reflex to additional testing, at an additional charge, to confirm that the patient has existing *C. difficile* disease as opposed to being colonized or a carrier.

The PCR test detects the gene encoding for *C. difficile* toxin but does not indicate whether the toxins are actively being produced. The reflexed EIA (enzyme immunoassay) test will detect GDH antigen, indicating the presence of the organism. In addition, it will detect the presence of the Toxin A/B.

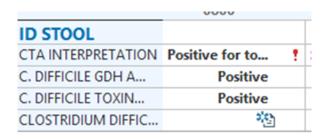
By using a testing algorithm that utilizes PCR as the first layer of testing, the lab is able to screen out most of the negative samples. If a sample is PCR positive, it is reflexed to a less sensitive EIA test to screen out possible carriers. A positive EIA with antigen and toxin detected are considered a true *C. difficile* infection.

#### Note:

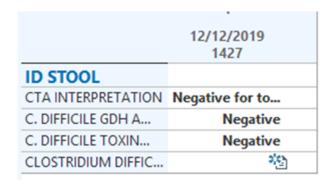
Questions regarding interpretation of this algorithm should be directed to Infection Prevention or an Infectious Disease practitioner. The lab cannot interpret patient specific result for this algorithm.

The testing results will be accompanied by an interpretation and comment when indicated:

#### Positive for toxigenic *C. difficile*



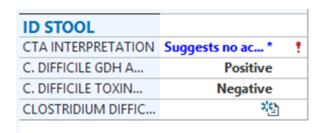
#### Negative for toxigenic *C. difficile*



#### Suggests no Active C. difficile disease

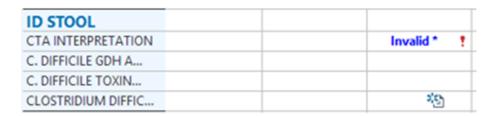
#### Comment:

C. difficile present but toxin was not detected. This could be a non-toxigenic strain, a carrier state, or toxin level too low for detection. The result should be used in conjunction with clinical history when deciding on additional testing and/or possible therapy. Consider ID consultation.

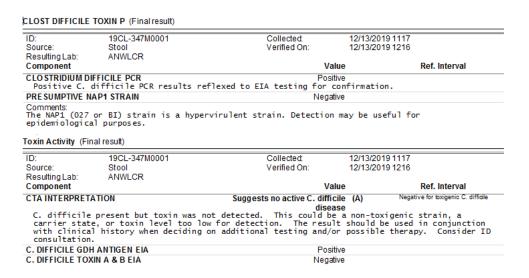


#### <u>Invalid</u>

Comment: Invalid result. Consider recollection if clinical suspicion of infection still exists.



#### **Printed report**



CPT Code for EIA testing: 87324 and 87449

# REFERRAL TESTING

# **Multiple new orderable tests**

Multiple tests referred to LabCorp, that previously required the use of the Miscellaneous test order (994/LAB994/MSO), are now orderable with unique test order codes.

Test name	Test #	Excellian order	Abbreviation
Apha-galactoside A	14229	LAB14229	ALPHAGALA
Bullous pemphigoid 180 antibody	14222	LAB14222	BP180&230
Clobazam, serum or plasma	14235	LAB14235	CLOBAZAM
C-telopeptide	14230	LAB14230	CTELOPEP
Cystatin C	14224	LAB14224	CYSTATINC
Eslicarbazepine metabolite	14234	LAB14234	ESLICARBAZMET
GQ1b antibody, IgG	14236	LAB14236	GQ1bIGG
Hepatitis E virus, IgM	14239	LAB14239	HEPEIGM
JC virus Ab titer, quantitative	14238	LAB14238	JCVANQNT
Lactate dehydrogenase, CSF/synovial	14223	LAB14223	LSCSFSYN
MAG IgM autoantibodies	14225	LAB14225	MAGIGM
Magnesium, urine	14221	LAB14221	MGU
Mango, IgE	14233	LAB14233	MANGOIGE
Myositis panel III	14241	LAB14241	MYOSITIS
Perampanel, serum/plasma	14240	LAB14240	PERAMPANEL
Phospholipase A2 receptor autoanti- bodies, IgG	14330	LAB14330	PLA2R
Striational antibodies	14228	LAB14228	STRIATEDABS
Trout, IgE	14232	LAB14232	TROUTEIGE

# Calculi, urinary

Effective January 27, 2020, LabCorp will transition the calculi testing from their Burlington laboratory to their Litholink specialty testing facility in Itasca, Illinois.

#### **Details**

	Current	NEW
Test name	Calculi, urinary	Stone analysis
Performing lab	LabCorp Burlington (120790)	LabCorp Litholink (910180)
Specimen	Urinary calculi	Calculi (urinary, biliary or salivary)
Days set up	Mo – Sa	Daily
Expected TAT	4 – 10 days	3 – 8 days
Method	Polarized light microscopy supported by infrared spectroscopy and chemical testing	Infrared spectroscopy
СРТ	82360	82365

There will be no fee changes as a result of theses testing changes.

# GQ1b antibody, IgG

LabCorp has shared that due to reagent procurement issues, they are currently unable to perform the GQ1b antibody, IgG assay (14236/LAB14236). The suggested alternative test is the Ganglioside GQ1b antibody (IgG), EIA, which LabCorp will forward to Quest Diagnostics, San Juan Capistrano (34144) for analysis.

Test name:	Ganglioside GQ1b antibody (IgG), EIA
Test number:	994/LAB994
Patient preparation:	Overnight fasting prior to specimen collection is preferred
Specimen type:	1 mL serum—gold SST
<b>Processing instructions:</b>	Spin separate and <i>freeze</i>
Transport container:	LabCorp screw-capped purple frozen plastic transport tube
Transport/stability:	Frozen (preferred) - 21 days
Performing lab:	Quest Diagnostics - San Juan Capistrano (34144) via LabCorp (MISC); R-NX
Expected TAT:	5 – 10 days
Reference range:	< 1:100
CPT codes:	83520

# Lamellar body count

Effective immediately, the Lamellar body count assay (994/LAB 994 MSO), referred to LabCorp, has been made obsolete and is no longer available.

Per ACOG guidelines, amniotic fluid testing for fetal lung maturity is no longer recommended. Because of this recommendation, the assay has been discontinued at local and national laboratories.

# **Neuropathy profile IV**

LabCorp has shared that due to reagent procurement issues, they are currently unable to perform the Neuropathy profile IV (994/LAB994) assay.

The suggested alternative test is the Motor neuropathy panel, which LabCorp will forward to ARUP (34144) for analysis. Test ordering and specimen details are as included below.

Test name:	Motor neuropathy panel
Test number:	994/LAB994
Abbreviation:	MSO
Test includes:	Albumin, Alpha 1 globulin, Alpha 2 globulin, Beta globulin, Gamma, Immunofixation, Immunoglobulin A, Immunoglobulin G, Immunoglobulin M, Total protein, Asialo-GM1 Abs-IgG/IgM, GM1 Abs-IgG/IgM, GD1a Abs-IgG/IgM, GD1b Abs-IgG/IgM, GQ1b Abss-IgG/IgM, SGPG Ab-IgM, MAG Ab-IgM ELISA
Specimen type:	Serum
Volume:	4 mL (minimum 2 mL)
Collection container	Gold SST
Processing instructions:	Separate from cells within 2 hours of collection, and <i>freeze</i>
Transport container:	Screw-cap polypropylene frozen transport vial/tube - 4mL (LabCorp)
Transport/stability:	Frozen (preferred) – 1 month  Refrigerated – 1 week
Performing lab:	ARUP (0051225) via LabCorp (009985); R-NX
Days set up:	Su - Sa
Expected TAT:	8 days
CPT codes:	82784x3, 83516x7, 84155, 84165 and 86334

# **Neuropathy profile V**

LabCorp has shared that due to reagent procurement issues, they are currently unable to perform the Neuropathy profile V (13656/LAB13656) assay.

The suggested alternative test is the Motor neuropathy panel, which LabCorp will forward to ARUP (34144) for analysis. Test ordering and specimen details are as included below.

Test name:	Motor neuropathy panel
Test number:	994/LAB994
Abbreviation:	MSO
Test includes:	Albumin, Alpha 1 globulin, Alpha 2 globulin, Beta globulin, Gamma, Immunofixation, Immunoglobulin A, Immunoglobulin G, Immunoglobulin M, Total protein, Asialo-GM1 Abs-IgG/IgM, GM1 Abs-IgG/IgM, GD1a Abs-IgG/IgM, GD1b Abs-IgG/IgM, GQ1b Abss-IgG/IgM, SGPG Ab-IgM, MAG Ab-IgM ELISA
Specimen type:	Serum
Volume:	4 mL (minimum 2 mL)
Collection container	Gold SST
Processing instructions:	Separate from cells within 2 hours of collection, and freeze
Transport container:	Screw-cap polypropylene frozen transport vial/tube - 4mL (LabCorp)
Transport/stability:	Frozen (preferred) $-1$ month Refrigerated $-1$ week
Performing lab:	ARUP (0051225) via LabCorp (009985); R-NX
Days set up:	Su - Sa
Expected TAT:	8 days
CPT codes:	82784x3, 83516x7, 84155, 84165 and 86334

# Platelet associated immunoglobulins

Effective immediately, the Platelet associated immunoglobulins assay (2199), used to detect platelet-specific autoantibodies, and referred to the American Red Cross (ARC), is no longer available.

Allina Health Laboratory has received communication from the ARC sharing that, because the manufacturer is no longer offering reagents for their Platelet associated immunoglobulins assay within the US, effective immediately, they are no longer offering this test.

The suggested alternative test is the <u>Platelet autoantibody profile</u>, <u>whole blood</u>, referred to LabCorp.

# Test info Specimen Performance Clinical and Interpretive info Billing Test name: Platelet autoantibody profile, whole blood Test number: 994 Excellian order number: LAB994 Abbreviation: MSO Alternate names: Direct platelet antibodies Platelet-associated immunoglobulin

### Platelet autoantibody profile, whole blood-994

#### Poliovirus immune status

LabCorp has shared communications indicating that the Poliovirus Immune Status profile assay (13588/LAB13588) has been made non-orderable.

Due to the World Health Organization (WHO) announcement of eradication of Poliovirus Type 3, the Poliovirus immune status assay, referred to LabCorp, is no longer offered.

No replacement test is available.

# Thyroid stimulating immunoglobulin

LabCorp has announced a transport and stability change for the Thyroid stimulating immuno-globulin assay (13399/LAB13399) which will go into effect on January 20, 2020.

#### **Details**

Current	New
Frozen (preferred) – 12 months Refrigerated – 7 days Ambient – 24 hours	Ambient (preferred) – 14 days Refrigerated – 14 days Frozen – 14 days
	Freeze/thaw cycle: stable x3

# WEBSITE

# New website up and running!

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our clients that in December of 2019, the new Allina Health Laboratory website went live.

We have a new url, which is <u>allinahealth.org/allinahealthlaboratory</u>. Please make sure to update any bookmarks or shortcuts that you may have saved. If you have questions or concern about our site, contact your account representative for assistance.

# Thank you for choosing Allina Health Laboratory - we appreciate your business!