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BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

HCMC fee changes

Earlier this month, Allina Health Laboratory was notified of fee changes for select testing that we refer to Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), which went into effect immediately.

If your site is billed for testing that you refer to Allina Health Laboratory, and you did not receive the new pricing, contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative for assistance.

REFERRAL TESTING

New test available; Herpes simplex virus and Varicella zoster virus profile, PCR

Effective immediately, a new orderable test is available. The Herpes simplex virus and Varicella zoster virus profile, PCR, referred to LabCorp Burlington, allows for testing for both the *Herpes simplex* and *Varicella zoster* viruses on a single specimen.

Ordering information and specimen requirements are as detailed below.

Test Name:	Herpes Simplex virus and Varicella Zoster virus profile, PCR
Test Number:	13684
Collect:	Swab of lesion
Container:	Universal transport medium (UTM-RT)
Processing:	
Transport/Stability:	Ambient (preferred) - 7 days Refrigerated - 7 days Frozen - 7 days
Alternate Names:	<i>Herpes simplex</i> virus HSV <i>Varicella zoster</i> virus VZV
Performing Lab:	HSVZV/PCR LAB13684 LabCorp Burlington (139367); R-NX
Days Set Up:	Daily
Expected TAT:	3 - 4 days
Ref. Ranges:	
Collection/Processing	<i>Useful for:</i>
Details:	<i>This test is intended to be used as an aid in identifying the specific etiologic agent of vesicular lesions; caused by either varicella zoster virus (VZV) or herpes simplex virus (HSV). It also differentiates HSV-1 from HSV-2.</i>
Method:	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
CPT Codes:	87529 x 2 87798

Interfaced clients: Contact your account representative to arrange for build and testing of this assay if this is a test that may be utilized at your practice.

PML-RARA transcript detection for acute Promyelocytic Leukemia, quant performing laboratory change

Effective immediately, the PML-RARA transcript detection for Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia, quantitative assay (13357/LAB13357), referred to LabCorp RTP, has been made obsolete, and all orders received will be forwarded to Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) as a Miscellaneous sendout (994/LAB994). All new orders for this test should be placed using the Miscellaneous sendout code (994/LAB994).

Effective immediately, orders for PML-RARA transcript quantitation will be referred to MCL instead of LabCorp. This change is necessary due to differences noted in results reporting between MCL and LabCorp that could affect patient monitoring. We are looking into this further. To date, there have been only a few orders referred to LabCorp and we will be following up with those ordering providers directly to offer re-testing at MCL, if indicated.

The test information and sample requirements for submitting samples to MCL are as below:

Test Name:	PML/RARA quantitative PCR
Test Number:	994
Collect:	4.0 mL EDTA whole blood - lavender
Alternate Collect:	3.0 mL EDTA bone marrow
Container:	Lavender top (EDTA) tube
Processing:	Do not spin Submit entire specimen
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated (preferred) - 5 days Ambient: (acceptable) - 72 hrs
Alternate Names:	(15;17)(q22;q12) Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) AML (acute myeloid leukemia) AMPL APL minimum residual disease PCR PML/RARA PML/RARA Qnt
Performing Lab:	MSO LAB994 Mayo Clinic Laboratories (PMLR); R-NX
Days Set Up:	Mo - Fr
Expected TAT:	4 - 8 days
Ref. Ranges:	See report
Collection/	Submit either blood or bone marrow, not both.
Processing Details:	Include Heme/Oncology Information Form; Mayo Form RNA is stored 3 months.
Method:	Quantitative, Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)
CPT Codes:	81315

SUPPLIES

Faulty stool preservative vials identified

It has been brought to our attention that Allina Health Laboratory has received stool collection vials from the manufacturer that have the labels improperly applied to the vial, making the “fill line” too close to the top of the liquid in the vials (*see photo 1*).

We have measured the liquid preservative to verify that it is the appropriate amount of preservative, however, the label misplacement does not give the user proper direction as to how much stool to add to the vial.

Action steps:

- If you order stool culture and sensitivity or Para-Pak EcoFix vials from Allina health Laboratory, examine the vials that you have in your supply and make sure the liquid level is not near the fill line.
- If you identify vials with this issue, place an order for replacement vials on our [Supply Catalog](#).
- Complete a [Supply Return Form](#) (available on the Supply Catalog home page) noting “defective product”, place the form and any defective vials in a courier transport bag, and return the items to Allina Health Laboratory with your next available courier.
- If you need to use a faulty vial before you receive your replacement supplies, these vials may be used. Fill the vial with specimen (approximately 5 mL or 1g of stool). The stool will raise the fluid line above the “Fill line” (*see photo 2*).



Photo 1: Faulty stool preservative vials (liquid is at, or very near, the fill line)



Photo 2: Faulty vial inoculated with the proper amount of specimen