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BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

United Health Care insurance changes

Due to changes that Allina Health Laboratory is experiencing with the United Health Care insurance company, effective immediately, and for any claims dating back to date of service of 10/01/2020, testing referred on to LabCorp may be billed to the patient's insurance by LabCorp, rather than by Allina Health Laboratory.

Please notify your patients who have United Health Care insurance of this possibility.

Dexamethaxone, serum CPT code update

LabCorp has sent notification of a CPT code change for the Dexamethasone, serum assay (13426/LAB13426), effective immediately.

| Previous CPT | NEW CPT |
|--------------|---------|
| 80375 | 80299 |

HLA DR & DQ CPT code update

M Health Fairview Reference Laboratories has announced a CPT code change for the HLA DR & DQ typing assay.

In order to maintain compliance with the standards of their accrediting organizations, M Health Fairview Reference Laboratories University of Minnesota Physicians Outreach Lab is changing their standard HLA typing method to next generation sequencing (NGS)

As a result of this methodology change, effective November 17, 2020, the CPT code for the HLA DR & DQ assay (2614) will change.

| New CPT |
|-----------|
| 81382 x 5 |

2021 CPT code updates

Below is a detailed listing of the laboratory CPT code changes for the calendar year 2021 which will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

The Allina Health Laboratory test catalog will be updated to reflect the changes at that time.

| Test name | Test # | Excellian Order | Abbr | Current CPT | NEW CPT | Current HB | NEW HB | Current PB | NEW PB |
|--|--------|-----------------|------|-------------|---------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| ACETAMINOPHEN | 920 | 82003.0 | ACM | G0480 | 80143 | 17001450 | 17001450 | 30G048000 | 308014300 |
| AMIODARONE (CORDARONE) | 13311 | LAB13311 | AMI | 80299 | 80151 | 17029231 | 17029231 | 308029916 | 308015100 |
| CARBAMAZEPINE 10,11 EPOXIDE, FREE & TOTAL | 2755 | LAB2755 | CFT | | | | | | |
| ***CARBAMAZEPINE EPOXIDE | | | | 82542 | 80161 | 17028309 | 17028309 | 308254269 | 308016100 |
| ***CARBAMAZEPINE TOTAL | | | | 80156 | 80156 | 17020033 | 17020033 | 308015601 | 308015601 |
| ***CARBAMAZEPINE UNBOUND | | | | 80157 | 80157 | 17020034 | 17020034 | 308015700 | 308015700 |
| CARBAMAZEPINE, EPOXIDE & TOTAL | 1957 | LAB1957 | EPX | | | | | | |
| ***CARBAMAZEPINE EPOXIDE | | | | 82542 | 80161 | 17003515 | 17003515 | 308254250 | 308016101 |
| ***CARBAMAZEPINE TOTAL | | | | 80156 | 80156 | 17020033 | 17020033 | 308015601 | 308015601 |
| ETHANOL BLOOD | 19 | 82055.1 | ETH | G0480 | 82077 | 17001525 | 17001525 | 30G048002 | 308207700 |
| FELBAMATE | 8733 | LAB8733 | FEX | G0480 | 80167 | 17026171 | 17026171 | 30G048041 | 308016700 |
| FLECAINIDE (TAMBOCOR) | 281 | LAB281 | FLE | G0480 | 80181 | 17003400 | 17003400 | 30G048043 | 308018100 |
| ITRACONAZOLE, SERUM/PLASMA | 13478 | LAB13478 | ITR | 80299 | 80189 | 17029316 | 17029316 | 308029917 | 308018900 |
| JAK2 EXON 12, 13, 14, 15 MUTATION ANALYSIS | 13516 | LAB13516 | JAK2 | 81403 | 81279 | 17029455 | 17029455 | 308140305 | 308127900 |
| METHOTREXATE | 939 | 83520.6 | MTX | 80299 | 80204 | 17003380 | 17003380 | 308029915 | 308020400 |
| MPL MUTATION ANALYSIS | 13552 | LAB13552 | MPL | 81402 | 81338 | 17029454 | 17029454 | 308140201 | 308133800 |
| RUFINAMIDE | 8532 | LAB8532 | RUF | G0480 | 80210 | 17025823 | 17025823 | 30G048092 | 308021000 |
| SALICYLATE | 228 | 80196.0 | SAL | G0480 | 80179 | 17005590 | 17005590 | 30G048004 | 308017900 |

HELP US HELP YOU

Winter weather related reminders

As our temperatures drop and winter approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to share a few reminders of things that may affect your specimen transport and testing.

Winter weather courier services

Our couriers will do everything in their power to perform each scheduled pick up as close to on time as possible. Please be aware that, for the safety of our drivers, road conditions may cause them to be delayed.

If the Department of Transportation closes roads, or if a route is deemed hazardous to a driver, they will be pulled from their routes. Although our primary goal is care of our patients, we need to balance this with the safety of the couriers. We will attempt to notify each client that is affected due to a courier delay or cancellation as timely as possible.

In the event of a courier cancellation please store specimens appropriately until your next available courier pick up.

Lockboxes and extreme temperatures

If your site utilizes a lockbox to store specimens prior to transport to Allina Health Laboratory, please note that when a lockbox is exposed to the elements, the insulation is not sufficient to protect specimens during extreme weather conditions. It is optimal to have the lockbox located in a protected area.

- If your lockbox is located outside of your building, in order to protect specimen integrity, the lockbox should not be used if the temperatures are below zero (0°F).
- If the temperatures are below zero (0°F), the specimens must be given directly to the courier driver.
- If you are unable to wait for the driver, and the specimens can not be held until your next direct courier pickup, an unscheduled courier pickup should be arranged.

This does not apply to lockboxes that are located within a building, protected from outdoor temperatures.

REFERRAL TESTING

Coccidioides Ab by immunodiffusion obsolete

LabCorp has shared communication that the Coccidioides antibody by immunodiffusion assay (13668) is no longer available.

The suggested alternative test is the [Coccidioides antibody, reflexive panel](#), also referred to LabCorp (830945). Order this test as a Miscellaneous Sendout (994/MSO).

Coccidioides Ab reflex panel available

Effective immediately, an new Coccidioides Ab, reflexive panel, referred to LabCorp, is available. This test is ordered as a Miscellaneous Sendout (994/LAB994).

Test name: Coccidioides Ab, reflexive panel

Test number: 994

Excellian order number: LAB994

Abbreviation: MSO

Tests included:

- Coccidioides antibody IgG and IgM by ELISA are used to screen for Coccidioides antibodies.
- If the ELISA testing is equivocal or positive for IgG and/or IgM, then *Coccidioides immitis* antibodies by Immunodiffusion, and Coccidioides titer will be added.

Useful for: Preferred serology test to detect Coccidioidomycosis (Valley fever)

Collection container: [Gold serum separator \(SST\) tube](#)



Volume: 2.0 mL

Minimum volume: 0.6 mL

Processing instructions: Spin

Transport container: Gold serum separator (SST) tube

Transport and stability: Refrigerated (*preferred*) – 2 weeks

Ambient – 48 hours

Frozen – 1 year

SUPPLIES

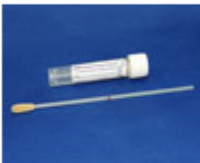
Supply backorder notifications

Allina Health Laboratory continues to experience nationwide manufacturer backorders and/or allocation situations for multiple supply items.

We want to make sure that our clients have the most current information available, however, rather than send out email messages each time there is a change, or a substitute item, we will ensure that information is included in our supply catalog and that tests are linked to the substitute product. An example is included in the screen shots below.

ESwab standard tip collection kit (white)

Item Name: **ESwab standard tip collection kit (white)**



BD™ ESwab Collection Kit Regular Flocked Swab (white cap) for routine aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, GC or yeast cultures & Influenza antigen or RSV antigen.

7/31/2020

This product is currently on manufacturer allocation and should be used for limited tests (see the Test information on the More Info page).

The suggested replacement products are the [ESwab mini-tip collection kit \(green\)](#) or the [ESwab flexible mini-tip collection kit \(blue\)](#).

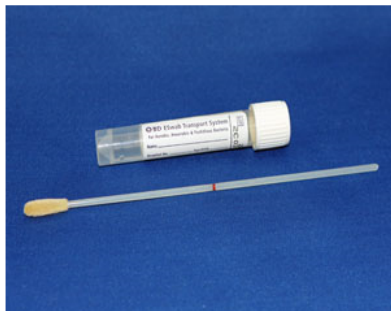
Item Name: ESwab standard tip collection kit (white)

Item number: 254730

Unit of measures: Box of 50
Each

Item Description:

BD™ ESwab Collection Kit Regular Flocked Swab (white cap) for routine aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, GC or yeast cultures & Influenza antigen or RSV antigen.



MSDS:

[Material safety data sheet](#)

Test information:

[Strep A PCR \(12796/LAB12796\)](#)

[Throat culture \(6563/87070.6\)](#)

Strep A PCR-12796

Test info

Specimen

Performance

Clinical and Interpretive info

Billing

Tracking

Specimen type: Swab of posterior pharynx & tonsils (oropharyngeal)

Collection container: [ESwab standard tip collection kit \(white\)](#)



Collection supply shortage management

Allina Health Laboratory is facing a critical nationwide shortage of collection supplies for the following tests: **Chlamydia trachomatis & Neisseria gonorrhea, amplified probe (GCC) and Strep A PCR test**. This shortage is due to consumption of resources for COVID-19 testing. Some of your sites may have received a [Health Advisory notice from the Minnesota Department of Health](#) and various counties regarding this shortage.




As a result, Allina Health Laboratory has identified alternative swabs for culture collections, which will conserve our inventory of the e-Swab and Aptima collection devices.

Note: Inventory volumes at the current usage rates, could exhaust **all supplies as early as Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020**. An **immediate** transition to the recommended collection devices is required to avoid depletion of our inventory. With these efforts, we hope to avoid any potential disruption in services.

To do:

Understand the changes to the following tests:

- GC & Chlamydia amplified probe 6746
- GC amplified probe 6745
- Chlamydia amplified probe 6744

| SOURCE | Collection container | Picture | Usage Change | Scarcity Restrictions |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Vaginal Rectal Oral | Hologic Aptima Multitest kit |  | All non-pregnant females Rectal (male or female) Oral (male or female) | |
| Endocervical Urethral | Hologic Aptima Unisex kit |  | Pregnant Females Males | Do not use for Endocervical collections on non-pregnant female. |
| Urine | Hologic Aptima Urine kit |  | Males Minors | No female urine except minors |

The major changes are:

- Non-pregnant females will be limited to vaginal specimens collected on the Aptima MULTITEST collection kits. *Note: the vaginal source for test order can be found on the source drop down menu if a quick button is not available.*
- UNISEX Aptima kits will be reserved for Pregnant Females and Male collections
- Urine Aptima kits will be reserved for male and minor patients (no adult female collections)

eSwab testing changes

- Cultures currently being collected on the e-swab will be transitioned to alternative swabs. This will allow the e-swab inventory to be dedicated to the high-volume Strep A PCR testing. *Note: Strep A PCR can be collected using one of three different collection systems: white e-Swabs, purple e-Swabs or modified green e-Swabs.*

The green e-Swab kits have been modified to include an OP swab for adequate Strep A collections. These kits can be recognized by the label affixed to the collection kit (see below).









The major changes are:

- Non-pregnant females will be limited to vaginal specimens collected on the Aptima MULTITEST collection kits. *Note: the vaginal source can be found on the source drop down menu if a quick button is not available.*
- UNISEX Aptima kits will be reserved for Pregnant Females and Male collections
- Urine Aptima kits will be reserved for male and minor patients (no adult female collections)
- Cultures currently being collected on the e-swab will be transitioned to alternative swabs. This will allow the e-swab inventory to be dedicated to the high-volume Strep A PCR testing. *Note: Strep A PCR can be collected using one of three different collection systems: white e-Swabs, purple e-Swabs or modified green e-Swabs.*

A strep collection kit has been created modifying a green e-Swab kit to include an OP swab for Strep A collections. These kits can be recognized by the label affixed to the collection kit (see below).

Strep Collection kit

Hospital – Rapid strep w/Reflex PCR
Clinic – Strep A PCR

| Test name | Order code | Collection container/swab |
|--|------------|--|
| Strep A PCR (Clinic order) | LAB12796 | BD Eswab Transport System (White) or  |
| Throat, rapid Strep A with reflex (Hospital order) | LAB6593 | Eswab Transport System (Purple) or  Strep Collection kit  |
| RSV, Rapid Antigen | LAB6533A | BD ESwab Transport System (Blue cap)  |
| Bordetella Pertussis by PCR | LAB13690 | |
| Sinus Only-Aerobic Culture | LAB12423 | |
| Tissue only-Anaerobic Culture | LAB6554 | |
| Urethral Culture, Stain | LAB625 | |
| Vag/Rectal OB Strep PCR (GBS) - Clinic | LAB14203 | BBL CultureSwab  |
| Group B Strep rapid DNA PCR - Hospital | LAB8127 | Copan Transystem  Scoring |
| Aerobic Bacterial Culture, Stain | LAB12423 | BBL CultureSwab  |
| Fungus Culture, Other Source | LAB6579 | |
| Gram Stain | LAB6584 | |
| KOH Prep - Other Source | LAB6524 | |
| MRSA Culture | LAB6578 | |
| Neisseria gonorrhoeae Culture | LAB6582 | |
| Rectal Strep Culture | LAB6525 | |
| Semen Culture | LAB6529 | |
| Staph aureus Culture (MSSA + MRSA) | LAB12427 | |
| Throat Culture | LAB6563 | |
| Vaginal / Cervical Culture, Stain | LAB6565 | |
| Vaginal Non-OB Strep Culture | LAB12426 | |
| VRE Culture | LAB6550 | |
| Wet Prep Genital (Trich, yeast, clue cells) | LAB6619 | |
| Yeast Culture | LAB6548 | |
| Anaerobic culture (non-tissue, non-fluid) | LAB6554 | Remel A.C.T. I  |