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BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

Cytogenetics fee schedule changes

Due to a Laboratory Information System (LIS) update, effective March 2, 2019, the structure of the Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) Cytogenetic fee schedule will be revised. With this structural revision, there may be fee changes for some assays (either increases or decreases).

The new fee schedule for Cytogenetics, independent of our current comprehensive fee schedule, are now available. Please contact your account representative to obtain an updated document.

Medica Advantage MR medical necessity update

Effective January 1, 2019, the new Medica Advantage MR plan is following CMS rules for medical necessity. This means that claims need a covered diagnosis or a signed waiver in order to bill for the services that are subject to medical necessity. These NCD and LCD policies can be found on our AHL website.

CHEMISTRY

Procalcitonin assay changes

On January 22nd, Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) changed the platform on which the Procalcitonin (8558/LAB8558) assay is performed from an Enzyme immunoassay sandwich method with fluorescent detection (ELFA) to a Chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay (CMIA) method. Additional changes are as detailed below, and are reflected in our test catalog.

	Previous	NEW
Processing	Spin	Spin and separate
Container	Plasma separator (PST) or serum separator (SST) tube	Plasma separator (PST), serum separator (SST) or AHL false bottom plasma/serum transport tube.
Transport/ stability	Refrigerated—2 days Frozen—6 months	Refrigerated (preferred): 48 hours when removed from the clot or gel Ambient: 8 hours on the clot or gel 24 hours when removed from the clot or gel Frozen: 15 days
Methodology	Enzyme immunoassay sandwich method with fluorescent detection (ELFA)	Chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay (CMIA)

MICROBIOLOGY

New test available - *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Rifampin PCR

Effective February 19, 2019, Allina Health Laboratory began offering the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Rifampin PCR assay (MTB/RIF PCR), performed daily, with results available within 24 hours.

An MTB/RIF PCR result of “not detected”, from either one or two sputum specimens, is highly predictive of the absence of *M. tuberculosis* bacilli on fluorescent acid-fast sputum smears from patients with suspected active pulmonary tuberculosis, and can be used as an aid in the decision of whether continued airborne infection isolation is warranted.

The MTB/RIF PCR Assay is not indicated for use with sputum samples from patients being treated with antituberculosis drugs, either to determine bacteriologic cure, or to monitor response of the therapy.

A negative test does not exclude the possibility of isolating MTB-complex from the sputum sample. The MTB/RIF PCR assay must be used in conjunction with mycobacterial culture to address the risk of false negative results, and to recover the organism for further characterization and susceptibility testing.

A positive test does not necessarily indicate the presence of viable organisms.

MTB positive samples will detect and report the presence or absence of mutations associated with Rifampin resistance (at an additional charge).

- Test must be ordered in conjunction with an AFB culture & smear (6617/LAB6617).
- Test may also be ordered as an add-on to an AFB culture & smear up to 7 days after collection of the sample.

REFERRAL TESTING

Primary referral laboratory change

In an effort to preserve important resources and ensure the affordability of our services, Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) will transition our primary referral testing vendor from Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) to LabCorp during the second quarter of 2019. A tentative go-live date for this transition is May 21st. The go live may occur earlier, but will not occur any later than 5/21. During the transition period, LabCorp and AHL Operations leaders will work closely together so as not to disrupt service to our customers.

AHL currently utilizes LabCorp for some of our referral testing. With LabCorp's mission to deliver world-class diagnostic solutions, their commitment to meet Allina Health's needs and their broad network of laboratories, we are confident that AHL will continue to receive high quality results for your patients.

This is an early notification for your awareness prior to beginning our work with LabCorp. We will communicate further as details become available.

Aldosterone transport temperature change

Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) has changed the preferred transport temperature for specimens for the Aldosterone (22/82088.1) assay. The Allina Health Laboratory test catalog has been updated to reflect this change.

Current Specimen Stability		
Specimen	Temperature	Time
Serum	Frozen (preferred)	30 days
	Ambient	4 days
	Refrigerated	28 days

New Specimen Stability		
Specimen	Temperature	Time
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days
	Ambient	4 days
	Frozen	30 days

HCG quant, tumor changes

Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) has transitioned the referral laboratory for the HCG quant, tumor assay (994/LAB994) from Mayo Clinical Laboratories (MCL) to LabCorp. Specimen details are as indicated below.

There was a price decrease associated with this performing laboratory change; for details, contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative.

Test Name:	HCG quant, tumor
Test Number:	994
Collect:	0.8 mL serum - SST
Peds Collect:	0.3 mL serum - SST <i>submission of the minimum volume does not allow for repeat testing</i>
Alternate Collect:	0.8 mL serum - red
Container:	SST tube or Screw Cap Transfer Vial
Processing:	SST: Spin and separate Red: spin and transfer serum to a screw cap transfer vial.
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated (preferred) - 14 days Ambient - 14 days Frozen - 14 days
Alternate Names:	Beta HCG Tumor marker HQT
Performing Lab:	LabCorp (004416); R-NX
Days Set Up:	Daily
Expected TAT:	1 - 3 days
Ref. Ranges:	Male: 0 - 3 mIU/L Female (not pregnant): 0 - 5 mIU/L
Collection/ Processing Details:	Useful for: Aiding in the diagnosis of gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD), testicular tumors, ovarian germ cell tumors, teratomas, and, rarely, other human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG)-secreting tumors. Patient preparation: For 12 hours prior to specimen collection, do not multivitamins or dietary supplements containing biotin (vitamin B7), which is commonly found in hair, skin and nail supplements and multivitamins.
Method:	Electrochemiluminescence Immunoassay (EIA)
CPT Codes:	84702

Iodine, random urine changes

Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) has shared that, effective February 26, 2019, they will no longer offer the Iodine, random urine (12465) assay. Effective that day, any orders for a Iodine, random urine, should be submitted as a Miscellaneous Send out (MSO/994) to be referred to MedTox Scientific for analysis (MedTox test #62405).

Test Name:	Iodine, random urine
Test Number:	994
Collect:	10.0 mL (minimum 1.0 mL) random urine
Container:	Metal-free plastic urine container, or a metal-free transport tube
Processing:	Submit entire specimen
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated (preferred) Ambient (OK) - <3 days
Alternate Names:	MSO LAB994
Performing Lab:	MedTox Scientific (62405); R-NX
Ref. Ranges:	Urine concentrations in health normal volunteers: up to 1400 ng/mL
Method:	Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)

Lactate CSF changes

Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) has announced that effective February 26th, this test will no longer be available. Beginning February 26th, the Lactate, CSF assay will be referred to LabCorp for analysis.

Test Name:	Lactic acid - CSF		
Test Number:	994		
Clinical Utilities/Useful for:	Aid in differentiating between bacterial and viral meningitis		
Collect:	1.0 mL (minimum 0.5 mL) CSF in a sterile container		
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerate - 15 days Ambient - 3 days Frozen		
Alternate Names:	MSO LAB994		
Performing Lab:	LabCorp (122408);R-NX		
Days Set Up:	Mo - Fr		
Expected TAT:	1 - 3 days		
Reference Range:	Age	Male	Female
	0 - 2 days	10 - 60	10 - 60
	3 - 10 days	10 - 40	10 - 40
	11 days - 16 years	10 - 25	10 - 25
	>16 years 1 month	10 - 22	10 - 22
Method:	Lactate-Pyruvate; Spectrophotometric		
CPT Code(s):	83605		

***Thank you for choosing Allina Health Laboratory -
We value your business!***