

ALLINA HEALTH LABORATORY

To: Allina Health Laboratory outreach clients
From: Allina Health Laboratory outreach services
Date: November 20, 2023
Re: New Alzheimer's Blood Test Codes

Quick Reference

Beginning November 21, 2023, two new blood-based biomarker tests will be orderable to screen for neurodegenerative conditions before proceeding with more invasive or expensive diagnostic procedures.

1. Neurofilament Light Chain (NfL): may be used to screen for neurodegenerative disease in patients with complex neurologic or psychiatric symptoms.
2. Phosphorylated Tau 181 (pTau-181): may be used to screen for Alzheimers Disease in patients with mild cognitive impairment.

Details

Effective November 21, 2023, two new blood-based tests will be orderable:

Neurofilament light chain (NfL), LAB14592, is the preferred blood-based test to evaluate for a neurodegenerative process when suspected in a patient with complex neurologic or psychiatric symptoms. Plasma NfL Results are useful to determine the need for specific biomarker testing, specialized imaging, or invasive procedures. Elevated NfL levels are seen in Alzheimer disease (AD), frontotemporal dementia, ALS, autoimmune/paraneoplastic neurologic disorders, and other conditions with neuronal damage.

Phosphorylated Tau 181 (pTau-181), LAB15163, is an assay that detects and quantifies pTau181 proteins in plasma. This blood-based biomarker is useful as an initial screen for Alzheimer's disease in patients presenting with mild cognitive impairment before proceeding to more invasive and expensive diagnostic PET scanning or lumbar puncture.

Please refer to the Allina Health test catalog for collection and processing information.

QUESTIONS: Contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative, or our Client Services department
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