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## **BILLING AND COMPLIANCE**

### **Influenza A/B PCR fee increase**

#### **QUICK REFERENCE**

Due to increased supply costs, effective October 23, 2021 there will be a fee increase for the Influenza A/B PCR (8810/LAB8810) assay.

#### **DETAILS**

Effective October 23, 2021, there will be an increase in the fees charged for the Influenza A/B PCR assay. If this is a test utilized by your practice, and Allina Health Laboratory bills your practice for testing performed, contact your account representative for the new fee for this test.

### **Aetna HMO Medicare insurance plans**

Allina Health is a non-participating provider for Aetna HMO Medicare Plans, and, therefore can not accept these plans. Effective Tuesday, October 5, 2021, if a request for testing is received by Allina Health Laboratory, and the patient has Aetna HMO Medicare insurance, the charges will be billed back to the account and the client will be responsible for payment of all charges accrued. More information about the plans with which Allina Health accepts is available on the [allinahealth.org](http://allinahealth.org) website.

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# MICROBIOLOGY

## COVID, Influenza and RSV testing update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments have sent out notifications sharing that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is circulating in our community, and the United States, at a higher rate than usual for this time of the year. Children with respiratory illness should be tested for SARS-CoV-2. In selected patients, testing for both SARS-CoV-2 and RSV may be considered.

[AAP practice guidelines](#) for children with bronchiolitis state that laboratory confirmation of RSV should not be performed routinely. Rapid RSV testing is only FDA-approved for use during the months of October through May and is not available unless there is a future change in the regulatory guidance.

Data from our laboratory confirms that RSV is circulating in the community.

Total # of tests performed (Age 0 - 4.5 years)	COVID positive	RSV positive	FLU A or B positive
42	1	15	0

Testing should be ordered judiciously to conserve testing supplies. For healthy infants and young children with typical symptoms of bronchiolitis, identification of RSV is unlikely to affect management and a clinical diagnosis is sufficient.

Due to supply procurement issues, at this time Allina Health Laboratory is unable to perform Influenza or RSV testing in house. Requests received for these tests will be sent to LabCorp for analysis.

Tests currently available:

### **COVID:**

If your facility has arranged to have Allina Health Laboratory perform COVID testing, order the COVID-19 collection (14315/ALB14315).

### **INFLUENZA A & INFLUENZA B, NAA:**

Order this test as an MSO to be forwarded to LabCorp for analysis (LabCorp test #140165).

### **INFLUENZA A, INFLUENZA B AND RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS, NAA:**

Order this test as an MSO to be forwarded to LabCorp for analysis (LabCorp test #140163).

*At this time there is no test available for RSV only.*

Refer to the Allina Health Laboratory [Test catalog](#) for specimen requirements for each of the above available tests. *If both a COVID test and either an Influenza or Influenza and RSV test is requested, **two samples must be collected**. If only one sample is received with a request for both COVID and Influenza or Influenza and RSV testing, your site will be contacted to determine which test should be performed.*

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## REFERRAL TESTING

### Herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1/2, PCR, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) test update

#### QUICK REFERENCE

Effective October 19, 2021, the Herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1/2, PCR cerebrospinal fluid assay, referred to LabCorp, will be orderable with a unique test code and will no longer require use of the Miscellaneous send out test code (994/LAB994).

#### DETAILS

	Current	NEW
<b>Test number</b>	994	14484
<b>Abbreviation</b>	MSO	HSVPCRCSF

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## SUPPLIES

### Greiner Bio-One Sodium citrate tube recall

Allina Health Laboratory has received notice of a recall of two lot numbers of the Greiner Bio-One Vacuette 2mL Sodium citrate tubes due to low draw volume and resulting clotting of the samples. These tubes are a component of the *Aspirin therapy and P22Y12 collection kits*.

The two lot numbers affected by this issue/recall are:

- Lot number B210533B, expiration 5/10/2022
- Lot number B210439J, expiration 4/13/82022

#### What do you need to do?

- If you have Aspirin therapy and P2Y12 collections in stock at your site, examine the Sodium citrate tube(s) to see if any of the kits contain tubes with the affected lot numbers.
- If you have kits with the affected lot numbers, complete a [Supply return form](#) and send the kits, along with the completed form, back to the Central Laboratory to the attention of Diane Hutchinson
- Place an order in the [Supply catalog](#) for replacement kits
- If you have questions regarding the recall or return of affected supplies, contact your account representative or Client Services at 612-863-4678

## Lt green Lithium heparin (Li hep) PST tube shortage

Due to a nation wide shortage of Lt green PST (Li heparin) plasma separator vial/tubes, to conserve our limited supply, we are asking that clients collect specimens in Gold serum separator (SST) vial/tubes whenever possible.

If Lithium heparin is preferred, but serum is acceptable, serum will be listed as an alternate specimen type in the test catalog.

A very limited number of tests *must be collected in the Lt green PST (Li heparin) plasma separator vial/tubes (serum is not an acceptable sample type):*

Test name	Test #
Ammonia	27
Troponin T	13395
Vitamin C	13314

## Conservation of blood collection tubes

### To know

There is critical nation-wide shortage of blood collection tubes that is anticipated to extend through the end of the year. All blood collection tubes used for laboratory testing are currently at risk for falling below the supply levels needed for patient specimen collections.

If conservation strategies are implemented, we will be able to extend the days on hand supply, allowing the ability to continue to offer critical testing to your patients.

### To do

In order to conserve our limited supplies, please follow these conservation strategies beginning immediately. *If conservation efforts are not implemented and followed, we may not have tubes available to supply for sample collections.*

- **Discontinue collecting any extra tubes**
  - If there is not an order for a test, an extra tube should *not* be drawn.
- **Conserve tube usage**
  - Help to balance the usage of tubes for chemistry testing: lithium heparin light green (PST) tubes, gold tubes, red tubes and dark green tubes.
    - \* At this time, there is more availability of gold tubes than there is of PST tubes. Whenever possible, draw chemistry testing in a gold top tube.
    - \* Refer to the Allina Health Laboratory [Test catalog](#) for information on which collection tube/sample types are acceptable for each test