

LabConnect

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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, a 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>Coccidioides immitis</i> 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 (<i>preferred</i>) – 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 \(blue\)](#).

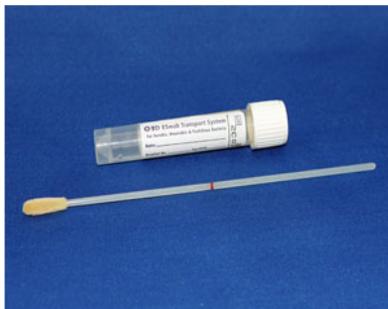
Item Name: ESwab standard tip collection kit (white)

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 gonorrhoea, 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:

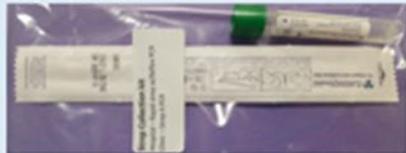
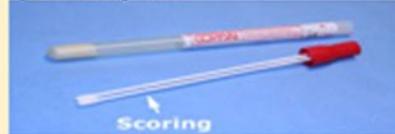
- Non-pregnant females will be limited to vaginal specimens collected on the Aptima MULTITEST collection kits. *Note: the vaginal source can be found on the source drop down menu if a quick button is not available.*
- UNISEX Aptima kits will be reserved for Pregnant Females and Male collections
- Urine 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  Eswab Transport System (Purple) or 
Throat, rapid Strep A with reflex (Hospital order)	LAB6593	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	Copas Transystem 
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 