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BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

ICD updates

Effective October 1st of each year, the new complete official ICD (International Classification of Diseases) coding sets, maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), become effective. ICD is a system used by physicians and other healthcare providers to classify and code all diagnoses, symptoms and procedures recorded in conjunction with hospital care. The coding sets reflect the naming convention of the following year but do not wait until that calendar year to take effect.

Please be sure to update your coding materials and have the new codes ready for use on October 1st. Putting the new codes sets into use on the effective date will help avoid additional correspondences from our billing department requesting the updates. Please note that failure to provide current and accurate information in a timely manner may result in service fees.

FLOW CYTOMETRY

T & B cell screen update

On August 31, 2021, Allina Health Laboratory implemented a reconfigured T & B cell screen that includes a novel T cell antibody (TRBC1) for the detection of phenotypic T cell clones by flow cytometry. TRBC1 is a monoclonal antibody (JOVI-1) specific to one of two mutually exclusive T-cell receptor (TCR) β chain constant regions, providing a simple and sensitive way to detect clonal T cells for any immunophenotypically distinct T cell subset among CD3+/TCR $\alpha\beta$ + T cells (Shi et al., 2020).

DETAILS

The modified T cell screen tube (T1), which was previously ordered as part of the T & B cell screen panel, was reconfigured from two 8-color tubes to a single 10-color tube on a new flow cytometer (Lyric). This change improved resolution of T and NK cells within a complex mixture of cells and improved efficiency. The reconfigured assay contains the novel marker TRBC1 along with TCR $\gamma\delta$ for a net gain of 2 CPT charges per panel.

The result report for the test was enhanced by assay-specific quality metrics, including a calculated Limit of Detection (LOD) based on the total number of analyzed events. Abnormal specimen reports include the relative frequency (percentage) and immunophenotypic summary of the aberrant cohort. Normal specimen reports include relative frequencies of B, T, and NK lymphocytes along with a calculated CD4:CD8 ratio for T cells. Percent positivity for individual markers and peripheral blood reference ranges for T cells are no longer reported due to the qualitative nature of the updated test. If quantitative results are required for peripheral blood, consider ordering Quantitative Lymphocyte Subsets (LAB14271).

Note that TRBC1 will identify clonal populations of TCR $\alpha\beta$ cytotoxic and helper T cells only. Clonality of TCR $\gamma\delta$ T cells and NK cells cannot be confirmed by this assay, although the latter represent a minority (~10%) of clonal T-cell populations detected in routine blood specimens.

Panel	Tubes	Markers	CPT codes*
T & B cell screen	Tubes B1, T1	CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD10, CD19, CD20, CD45, CD56, Kappa, Lambda, TCR $\gamma\delta$, TRBC1	88184 x 1 88185 x 14

**May vary based on immunophenotype of cells in the specimen*

REFERENCES

Shi, M., Jevremovic, D., Otteson, G. E., Timm, M. M., Olteanu, H., & Horna, P. (2020). Single Antibody Detection of T-Cell Receptor $\alpha\beta$ Clonality by Flow Cytometry Rapidly Identifies Mature T-Cell Neoplasms and Monotypic Small CD8-Positive Subsets of Uncertain Significance. *Cytometry. Part B, Clinical cytometry*, 98(1), 99–107. [doi: 10.1002/cyto.b.21782](https://doi.org/10.1002/cyto.b.21782)

HELP US HELP YOU

Supply order reminders

Due to supply shortages brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, some items ordered may not be available, or may be substituted. Every attempt is made to place an alert on items which may be affected.

To expedite the processing and receipt of supply orders, please attempt to inventory your supplies and place an order weekly. If you have not received your order, or part of your order, do not place a duplicate order as multiple orders will slow the process and may delay delivery even further.

If you have a concern about an order, contact your account representative, or our client services staff at (612) 863-4678.

Labeling of aliquot tubes


When submitting a specimen for testing in an aliquot tube, it is critical that the tube labelling include the type of specimen in the tube. This is to ensure that the requested testing is being performed on an acceptable specimen type, as well as so that if add-on testing is requested, the type of specimen can be verified.

Several types of spot labels are available in our supply catalog for our client to use for this purpose. These include labels for specimens that must be maintained at frozen or ambient/room temperatures, heparin plasma, EDTA plasma, Sodium citrate plasma, serum and urine.

If you have questions about any of these labels, or the proper labeling of these specimens, contact your account representative for assistance.

Spot label - It blue NaCit PPP

Item Name: Spot label - It blue NaCit PPP



Blue spot labels for NaCitrate aliquot tubes

[More Info](#) [Add to Cart](#)

Light blue spot label for Sodium citrate plasma specimens

**Thank you for choosing Allina Health Laboratory -
we appreciate and value your business!**