



## **OUTREACH LABORATORY UPDATE DECEMBER 2011**

### **MAYO REFERRED TESTING – HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Bellin has received notice from Mayo Medical Laboratory regarding specimen transportation schedules over the Christmas and New Years holiday weekends.

Due to the absence of air freight transfer, we will not be able to transport specimens from Bellin to Mayo on Saturday 12/24/2011 and Saturday 12/31/2011. Specimens received at Bellin after noon on Friday 12/23/2011 and 12/30/2011 will not be able to be sent to Mayo until the following Monday.

### **Clostridium difficile (C diff) by PCR**

Beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in addition to our current testing for C diff by PCR, we will also be routinely testing stool specimens submitted for C diff for the NAP1 strain.

In the last several years, there have been outbreaks of C diff attributed to hyper-virulent strains, including the NAP1 strain. Strains of NAP1 C diff exhibit increased toxin production and enhanced persistence in the environment. The identification of a presumptive positive or negative NAP1 result may aid in the identification of possible sources of a NAP1 outbreak.

Specimen requirements and pricing will not change (unformed stool, refrigerated). An additional CPT code will be charged. The current code of 87493 will be charged twice for each assay.

### **Fetal Lung Maturity testing**

Effective January 1, 2012 the Fetal Lung Maturity testing performed on amniotic fluid will no longer be available. The test has been replaced with a Lamellar Body Count performed for the same determination.

The lamellar Body Count test requires 2.0 ml of amniotic fluid (1.0 ml minimum) kept at a refrigerated temperature. The CPT code used is 83664 and base client price will be \$76.20.

### **Double Stranded DNA Antibody**

Effective immediately, the DNA Antibody testing will be forwarded to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Previously this test was being performed at Bellin Laboratory. There is no change in specimen, pricing, or CPT codes.

### **NMR Lipoprofile – another change**

The NMR Lipoprofile performed at LipoScience, Inc has undergone another coding and pricing change.

Previously, the CPT code was 83704 and base client price was \$107.96. Base client price has been reduced to \$81.28 and the CPT codes of 83704 and 80061 will be charged.

### **Additional testing on previously frozen specimens**

If your facility stores specimens frozen on-site that may be sent to Bellin Laboratory for additional testing, please do not thaw the specimen before transport.

Additional steps are taken when handling a frozen/thawed sample in order to protect the specimen integrity.

### **Printed Lab Catalogs**

Due to the advanced age of our printed catalogs that are in circulation, we are asking that you please return them to Bellin for destruction. The information in those catalogs has become dangerously obsolete in some cases for both Bellin performed and Mayo performed testing.

You may also destroy the catalogs yourself, but please call the Outreach lab at 920-433-3652 or 1-800-236-1639 and let us know where you are calling from and how many catalogs have been discarded.

At this time, there are no plans to print any new catalog as an on-line version is readily available and printed copies cannot be maintained accurately. To find the on-line catalog on its public website, go to [www.bellin.org](http://www.bellin.org), go to the “Bellin Links” at the top of the page and it will be found under Bellin Health Outreach Lab on the scrollbar on the left side.

Once on the site, you will be asked to accept a user agreement the first time you access it and then the site can be bookmarked, saved to favorites or a shortcut created.

### **Prometheus IBD testing**

Please note that there is a pricing and CPT coding change for Prometheus IBD testing. The previous base client price was \$592.90 and included 7 CPT codes. The base client price has increased to \$870.08 and there are currently 28 CPT codes for billing. We expect another change in the CPT codes after January 1, 2012 however the reference lab has not made that determination as of the date of this update.

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
BELLIN LABORATORY*