



## **OUTREACH LABORATORY UPDATE AUGUST 2011 (EDITION 2)**

### **MRSA/SA TESTING**

Effective 9/1/2011, Bellin Health Outreach Laboratory will be switching any routinely ordered MRSA/SA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus / Staphylococcus aureus) testing to the quick and sensitive PCR method unless the order directly requests a culture method.

MRSA/SA testing by PCR is available for sources from a nasal swab or alternatively from a skin or soft tissue injury site. There are two separate orderable tests based on which specimen source is submitted.

Testing for MRSA via the culture method will continue to be available, however must be specified on the order. A culture may be indicated when used to monitor patient's treatment for MRSA, since the PCR method will pick up non-viable organisms.

### **SYNOVIAL FLUID CULTURE**

Effective immediately, cultures on synovial fluids will be a separate orderable test instead of being processed under the general body fluid culture. This change is due to a test methodology change. Preliminary result reporting will remain similar however the final report will not be generated until day five.

There will also be no change in pricing, specimen or CPT coding.