



OUTREACH LABORATORY UPDATE MAY 2011

CHANGES FOR THIN PREP PAP SMEARS

Effective Monday, June 6, 2011, Bellin Health Laboratory will be converting to the use of the Thin Prep Imaging System for performing submitted Thin Prep Pap testing. Any specimen with a collection date of June 6, 2011 or later will be processed with the new method and CPT.

As stated in previous communications the digital imaging system is used in conjunction with human expertise to result in increased sensitivity and specificity. At the point of conversion all Thin Prep Pap specimens will be processed using the imaging system.

What remains the same?

Specimen collection has not changed, nor has the process for ordering the Thin Prep Pap.

What changes?

The CPT code used for billing those Thin Prep Paps will change from 88142 to 88175 for diagnostic situations and all non-Medicare screening situations. Medicare screening Thin Prep Paps will change in HCPC code from G0123 to G0145.

The charges associated with performing this procedure will increase slightly to offset increased cost. Any increase should easily be recognized by the increase in reimbursement.

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REMINDER: SPECIMEN LABELING

Please note that regulatory standards dictate that specimens received by any laboratory for testing must have two patient identifiers on the original sample container. Generally, this will include the patients complete name and date of birth. Please help us comply with these standards.

QUANTIFERON TEST KITS

Please check any quantiferon test kits you may have in stock. A manufacturing defect was detected by Mayo Medical Laboratory where the color of the tube stoppers and the color of the label did not match. Unfortunately this did cause a test cancellation on our end.

NEW TEST – INFLUENZA A, B AND H1N1 BY PCR **DISCONTINUED TEST-INFLUENZA PANEL AND RESPIRATORY VIRAL SMEAR**

Bellin Lab will begin testing nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens for Influenza by real-time PCR effective June 1st, 2011, replacing the current method. This rapid and highly accurate method uses real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect viral RNA sequences associated with Influenza A, B, and 2009 H1N1.

The sensitivity of this method is much greater than DFA, EIA, and culture methods. Therefore, no reflex testing is necessary for negative specimens as is the current practice.

Due to the change in methodology, Bellin Laboratory will also discontinue performing the Respiratory Viral Smear. Testing for the three components of this smear should be ordered separately as Influenza by PCR, Rapid RSV, and Parainfluenza.

Specimen Collection and Transport

Nasopharyngeal Swab(s)

Collect specimen using two Dacron® swabs as follows:

Holding swab between thumb and forefinger of 1 hand and sheath in other hand, give soft wire a 10° to 20° bend. This slight curve fits the nose better, making procedure more comfortable for patient. Slide swab along floor of nose (hand down by patient's chin to start swab) with very light pressure to nasopharyngeal wall. Rotate swab, leave in place for 1 minute to ensure adequate sampling, and remove along floor of nose. Place swab in M5 media. Repeat with a second swab, placing it in the same M5 media. Replace cap securely. Send specimen refrigerated within 72 hours.

Note: Specimen source is required on request form for processing.

CPT :87502, 87503

Base Client Charge: \$76.20

CPT CODE AND PRICE CHANGES: CARNITINE, BLATOMYCES ANTIBODY, RETICULIN ANTIBODIES

Due to changes at Mayo Medical Laboratories, there have been some client price changes, as well as one CPT code change to the following tests.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Previous client price</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Previous CPT code</u>	<u>New</u>
Reticulin Antibodies	59.93	41.91	86256	86255
Blastomyces Antibody	34.97	68.45	86612	No Change
Carnitine	79.92	48.36	82379	No Change

SAMPLE COLLECTION SUPPLY CHANGES

Within the next few months, Bellin Laboratory Outreach clients that receive blood collection tubes from our laboratory will notice a change sample collection supplies.

First, we have changed the type of safety needles and holders that are being supplied and used by our customers. The new needles and accompanying holders will be from Becton Dickinson. The needles will be available in 22G x 1 ¼ and 21 x 1 ¼ Eclipse safety needles with the accompanying Vacutainer holders.

Please be very careful with your conversion on-site. Be certain to change both the needles and holders out at the same time in order to ensure that the proper safety devices are used.

Second, all our collection tubes will be switched over to the Becton Dickinson Vacutainer brand collection tubes. This will mean that the volumes and in some cases the colors of the tube stoppers will change. Below is a comparison of the old and new collection tubes.

<u>Current Grenier Tube</u>		<u>New BD tube</u>	
<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>
Red top SST	10 ml	Gold top SST	4 ml
Green Top PST	4 ml	Green top PST	3 ml
Blue Top	2 ml	Blue Top	1.8 ml

The blue top tubes will have a different look and fill volume. These tubes no longer have a printed line or arrow on the label to indicate the fill line. Instead they will have a frosted line that is apparent when the tube is filled with sample. This frosted line is closer to the top of the tube than the current printed fill indicator.

There will also be larger Blue Top 4.5 tubes available singly at special request for those rare referred tests that require larger volumes of citrate plasma. Please check our catalog of services for instructions.

SPECIMEN CHANGES: INSULIN LIKE GROWTH FACTOR AND VITAMIN B6

Effective immediately, the specimen transport temperature for the Insulin-Like Growth Factor, Serum has been changed from refrigerated to frozen. Refrigerated specimens will no longer be acceptable.

Also effective immediately, the specimen for Vitamin B6 has changed from frozen serum to refrigerated plasma from a green top tube. The specimen also must be protected from light during transport.