

## **LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE MARCH 2010**

### **UPDATE ADVANCE BENEFICIARY NOTICE – ABN**

This is a reminder that a new format should be used for the Medicare Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) or “waiver”. This form was put into place in March 2009 and should be the format used by any clinic using an ABN.

Please access the new forms and instructions at: [www.cms.hhs.gov/bni](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/bni) The forms are found on the left side of the web page under FFS Revised ABN.

### **SPECIMEN IDENTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

Bellin Health Outreach Laboratory is required to follow the guidelines set by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) and the American College of Pathology (CAP) for proper patient identification. This includes all specimens received into our laboratory from outside sources.

In addition to the regulatory requirements, the quality of laboratory results and patient safety begin with correct patient identification and specimen labeling. Multiple studies have shown that an overwhelming number of laboratory “errors” are contributed to patient or sample identification, thus leading to possible serious patient risk.

Specimens must be labeled in the presence of the patient using two separate patient identifiers. In most cases, at least one of these will be the patient’s complete legal name while the second identifier is usually a date of birth. Both pieces of information should be legible and should match any test requisition.

### **BELLIN HEALTH LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE**

As we transition to dedicated Customer Service representatives, please note that questions regarding any testing referred to Mayo Medical Laboratory or other various reference laboratories may be handled by that staff. We ask that you not contact our hospital laboratory department directly but allow us to answer your questions in the most efficient manner possible.

## **SUPPLY INVENTORY**

This is just a reminder that all clinics should be checking their stocks of laboratory supplies. Most of the supplies have some sort of expiration date printed on the container. Please be particularly careful that you perform a visual check at the time of collection also. We have canceled a few cultures recently due to outdated and desiccated culturettes.

## **PANEL NO LONGER AVAILABLE**

As of 3/15/2010 the Thyroid Antibody Group is no longer orderable as a single panel. The separate tests that were included in the panel, which includes Thyroperoxidase and Thyroglobulin Antibody, continue to be separately available.

## **VITAMIN B12 AND FOLATE**

It is no longer necessary to protect the Vitamin B12 and/or Folate testing from light during transport. Although extremely prolonged exposure to light may cause minimal changes, the amount of time needed for transport and testing are safe without extra protection.

## **MAYO MEDICAL LABORATORIES SPECIMEN CHANGES – GENERAL CATALOG INFORMATION**

Mayo Medical Laboratories is in the process of re-evaluating many of their specimen requirements. Due to the large number of tests involved and the fact that our printed catalogs are becoming quickly outdated, please keep this in mind when you are collecting any unusual testing. Notifications will be sent for those tests that we receive frequently enough to have built in our laboratory information system, but for those rarely seen tests, it is always good practice to check the continually updated on-line catalog. This catalog can be accessed in multiple ways – from a Meditech Screen if you are on our system, or over the Bellin Health Internet website. Please call if you need help finding these links.

## **MAYO MEDICAL LABORATORIES SPECIMEN CHANGES**

Effective immediately:

Specimens that must be collected in a plain red-top tube and serum removed from the cells within 2 hours and the serum transported **refrigerated** in a plastic transfer tube include:

Ethosuximide, Gabapentin, Lidocaine, Quinidine, Clomipramine, Topiramate and Levetiracetam.

Specimens that must be collected in a plain red-top tube and serum removed from the cells within 2 hours and the serum transported **frozen** in a plastic transfer tube include: Amikacin, Amiodarone, C1Esterase Inhibitor Antigen.

Some of the Cytochrome testing such as CYP2C19 and CYP2D6 can no longer be performed on EDTA whole blood, but must be collected in ACD whole blood.

### **CPT CODE CHANGE**

Effective immediately, please note that the CPT code for the Antigen ID - Patient performed through Blood Bank has been changed from 86905 to 86903.

Also effective immediately, please note that the CPT code for the FTA-ABS Test, Serum has been changed from 86781 to 86780.

### **PRICE CHANGE**

Effective immediately, please note a change in price for the Anti Histone Antibody test. Base Client price is reduced from \$73.16 to \$41.43. CPT code remains 83516.

The price for Myoglobin, Serum testing has also been changed from \$57.43 to \$43.80 due to a change in laboratory site testing. There is no change in CPT code.