

LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE OCTOBER 2009

Receiving this Newsletter

This newsletter is Bellin Health Laboratory's venue for communicating any changes that may affect our clients and those submitting specimens to our lab. We make all attempts to get this to the correct responsible parties at each facility, but need your help.

If this is not addressed to the correct area, if it needs to be sent to more than one area, or if you would like to receive this via e-mail, please contact Jan Harrig at 920-433-7848 or jaharr@bellin.org.

Vitamin D 25-Hydroxy Testing CPT code change

Effective September 12, 2009 the CPT coding for the Vitamin D testing has been changed. We are no longer able to bill out the two CPT codes 82306 and 82541. The test is now being coded with the single code of 82306. Price and specimen requirements have not changed at this time.

Specimen Requirement Changes

Please note that effective October 27, 2009 the following tests will have a change in specimen requirements:

Amitryptiline – 3 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated
Primidone – 1 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated
Procainamide – 1 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated
Flecainide – 3 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated
Phenytoin, Total & Free – 2 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated
Nortryptiline – 1 ml serum (no gel) refrigerated

All of the above now requires the specimen be collected in a plain red-top tube – Serum gel tubes are not acceptable. Please note this in any written specimen requirement documentation you may have at your facility.

Test Changes – Parathyroid Hormone

Effective November 1, 2009 Bellin Health Laboratory will be changing the instrument that performs Parathyroid Hormone testing. This change will necessitate further changes in the days the test is performed as well as the normal range and specimen requirements. There will be no changes in price or CPT codes.

Changes:

Routine testing will now be performed Tuesday and Thursday.

Reference Values will change from 14 – 72 pg/mL to a range of 12 – 88 pg/mL

Specimen will continue to be frozen serum, however frozen heparin plasma will also be acceptable.

The requirement that the specimen be frozen within 8 hours of collection remains.

Correlation studies are available upon request.

Culture Orders

Please remember that Bellin Health Laboratory is required by our accrediting agency to gather specific information regarding a site and source when performing any type of cultures. This provides us with the information to set up and process the culture properly and lack of the information may delay results.

For example, when ordering a wound culture, please provide the site and source such as “left lower leg” or “left knee aspirate”.

Thin Prep pap notes from Cytology:

There has been a recent increase in unsatisfactory pap specimens due to lack of cellular material and excessive blood contamination. This situation requires we attempt to save the specimen by doing an additional procedure called an acid wash. As noted in earlier communications, this leads to turn around time delay, additional cost and still can result in an unsatisfactory diagnosis. The cause has been shown to involve collection technique problems. Please refer to proper collection instructions to avoid this problem.

In addition there have been questions from providers regarding specimens that result in insufficient volumes to perform the HPV testing after the pap has been completed. The vast majority of the time this is due to an insufficient collection of cellular material (or improper collection device handling), which results in a small volume remaining for HPV testing. Following proper collection and handling techniques should prevent this problem.

In an effort to improve pap collection, which will in turn eliminate problems with unsatisfactory pap results, acid wash rates, and HPV testing, we will be providing data to providers regarding these situations.

Improving pap collection techniques also may reverse an observed trend of collecting a Digene swab for HPV testing in addition to the thin prep vial. While this may be acceptable in rare cases, using the additional swab routinely will be adding extra supply costs. Continuing to monitor these situations will help us all improve our services to the patient in the most cost effective and safe manner. Thank you for your help.

H1N1 Influenza

Wisconsin State Laboratory is no longer testing for H1N1 sub typing for influenza. Bellin Health will continue to perform our Influenza A and B Panel however, will not be sending out PCR testing for sub typing.

Expired Thin Prep pap vials

Due to the fact that we have recently received several thin prep pap specimens collected in vials with expiration dates that have passed, we would like to remind each facility to please rotate the stock of thin prep vials.

The vials generally have an expiration date that is almost two years out when we send them to our clients. Since recollection is an expensive and inconvenient undertaking, please be certain to check all stock on hand and ensure the oldest vials are being used first.

An expired vial should not be used for collection of a specimen and should be discarded.

Respiratory Viral Testing

Again this year, Bellin Health Laboratory will be making our own cytospin smears for direct fluorescent antibody staining (DFA). Therefore, it will not be necessary to submit pre-made direct smears. The recommended specimens for both RSV and Influenza are nasopharyngeal swabs or nasal washes in M5 transport media. Collect left and right NP (wire-shafted) swabs and place both in one M5 tube. Polyester or rayon NP swabs should be used. Refrigerate after collection. Throat swabs will not be accepted due to decreased yield. Contact the Microbiology Lab at 433-3725 if you have questions.

<u>TEST</u>	<u>MEDITECH</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u> <u>(IN M5)</u>	<u>METHOD</u>
Influenza panel	INFLUENZAPANEL	NP swabs or nasal wash	DFA cytospin. If negative a 24-hour shell vial culture will be added.
Rapid RSV	RSVRAPID	NP swabs or Nasal wash	DFA cytospin
Respiratory Viral Smear	VIRRESPSM	NP swabs or Nasal wash	DFA cytospin for Influenza A/B, Parainflu 1, 2, 3, and RSV. If negative, a viral culture will be added.
Viral culture	VIRC	Respiratory specimen	14 day viral culture

Specimens received by 7AM will generally have results available by 10AM.