

LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE DECEMBER 2008

RESPIRATORY VIRAL TESTING

Attached to this newsletter, are the latest recommendations for handling Respiratory Viral Testing. Please refer to this when submitting those types of specimens.

CARDIOLIPIN ANTIBODY TESTING

Effective immediately, Cardiolipin Antibody testing will be referred to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Cardiolipin Antibody testing is also referred to as Phospholipid Antibodies.

By referring these samples to Mayo Medical Laboratories, we can provide better turn-around time and keep the price at the same level. There is however, a change in CPT codes as the Mayo performed testing provides three separate determinations of IgG, IgM and IgA.

The CPT codes are now: 86147 x 3

VITAMIN D 1,25 DIHYDROXY, SERUM

Mayo Medical Laboratory has notified Bellin Health that the minimum volume needed to perform the Vitamin D 1,25 Dihydroxy is 1.2 mL. Any samples submitted with less than 1.2 mL will not be performed. In the past, they were able to test volumes between 0.6 and 1.1 mL with a disclaimer.

LEAD TESTING

Please note the change in transport temperature for any lead testing sent to Bellin Health Laboratory. In the past, we have received many specimens at refrigerated temperature. The new transport temperature is ambient.

PROTHOMBIN (PROTIME) TESTING

Bellin Health Laboratory would like to remind you that if you are sending whole blood for PT (Prothrombin Time) testing, please transport the specimen at **ambient** temperature for testing within 24 hours.

If you anticipate testing will take place beyond the 24-hour time frame, please spin down the specimen, separate the plasma into a separate plastic transfer tube and freeze.

Prothrombin Time specimens should never be refrigerated whether they are whole blood or separated plasma.

HEPARIN INDUCED ANTIBODIES

Bellin Health Laboratory has been informed that St. Vincent Hospital Laboratory will no longer be performing the Heparin Induced Antibodies. Therefore we will be forwarding this testing to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Specimen requirements have changed slightly. Blood must be collected in a plain red top tube; a serum gel tube is not acceptable. The specimen must be centrifuged and 1 mL of serum sent frozen in a plastic transfer tube.

While the CPT code remains the same (86022), the price has dropped considerably from a base client price of \$204.00 to \$65.07.

ANCA PANEL

Effective immediately, Anti-Cytoplasmic Neutrophil Antibodies will be sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories. Due to the declining number of requests, we are better able to provide a reasonable turn-around time by making this change. Please note that there will be a slight increase in price, from a base client price of \$32.64 to \$41.91. The CPT code will also change to a single 86255 with a possible 86256 when a titer is performed on a positive screen.

MTHFR

CPT coding for the Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase Genotyping has been updated to: 83891, 89896 x 2, 83898, 83912 for a total of 5 codes. There have been no price or specimens changes.

ALKALINE PHOPHATASE ISOENZYMES

This test is now being performed directly at Mayo Medical Laboratories instead of their referring the testing to ARUP laboratories. There are no pricing or coding changes, however, this change should provide better turn-around time.

NMR LIPOPROTEIN PROFILE

Due to the increasing number of requests for the NMR Lipoprotein Profile, this particular test sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories will generate a lower price.

The new base client price is \$64.33 with a CPT code of 83704.

AMERICHoice/UNITED HEALTH MA PRODUCT

Effective immediately, Americhoice (a Medical Assistance product of United Healthcare) has put in place a policy outlining when they will reimburse for Viral Hepatitis Serology Testing.

The CPT codes affected are 86704, 86705, 86706, 86707, 86708, 86709, 86803, 86804, 87340, 87341, 87350, 87380. The Bellin or Mayo performed tests that are affected are:

86704 Hepatitis B Core Antibody-Total

Also part of Hepatitis B Panel

86705 Hepatitis B Core - IgM

Also part of Hepatitis B Panel

86706 Hepatitis B Surface Antibody

Also part of Hepatitis B Panel

86707 Hepatitis BE Antibody – referred to Mayo Medical Labs

86708 Hepatitis A Antibody – Total

Also part of Hepatitis ABC Panel

86709 Hepatitis A Antibody – IgM

May be a reflex test

86803 Hepatitis C Antibody

Also part of Hepatitis ABC Panel

86804 Hepatitis C RIBA Panel – referred to Mayo Medical Labs

87340 Hepatitis B Surface Antigen

Also part of Hepatitis B Panel and Hepatitis ABC Panel

87350 Hepatitis BE Antigen – referred to Mayo Medical Labs

When you order any of the above tests for a patient with Americhoice, you must have one of the diagnosis codes included in the policy in order for the test to be reimbursed and avoid charges to your facility.

The most common ones we have seen denied include:

V73.89 Screen Viral Diseases NEC

V01.89 Other Communicable Diseases

790.6 ABN Blood Chemistry NEC

791.4 Biliuria

The Americhoice policy can be found in a variety of places. It has been incorporated into our Internet site: www.bellin.org

Go to the tab at the top – “For Business”

Choose - “Bellin Health Outreach Laboratory”

Go to – “References”

Choose – “Bellin Health NCD and LMRP Laboratory Test Index

It can also be found on the Bellin Health Intranet Site under Locations, BMG, NCD/LMRP.

If you are unable to use either of the above, it can be found at:

<http://www.americhoice.com/edocs/en/physicians/policies/pdf/R0096.pdf>

NEW MEDICARE POLICIES

Effective immediately, National Government Services or NGS has implemented local medical review policies for the following tests:

Acid Phosphatase – CPT code 84060

BNP – CPT code 83880

Sed Rate (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate) – CPT code 85651 and 85652

High Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein – CPT code 86141

Homocysteine Level – CPT code 83090

These policies can be found at the Bellin internet and intranet sites listed above as well as:

www.ngsmedicare.com

When you order any of the above tests for a patient with Medicare, you must have one of the diagnosis codes included in the policies in order for the tests to be reimbursed and avoid charges to your facility.