

LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE MARCH 2009

NEW TESTING

Effective Monday March 16, 2009 Bellin Laboratory will begin testing for C-reactive protein, Cardiac (also known as High Sensitivity).

By performing this test in-house we will be able to provide better turn-around time as well as a cost savings.

The current base client price of \$18.36 will be lowered to \$12.70. The CPT code will remain as 86141. In addition, we are able to lower our base client price for the regular C-reactive protein from \$13.15 to \$10.15.

Specimen type will include both serum and heparin plasma sent at a refrigerated temperature. Please note that this test cannot be added to frozen heparin plasma. Therefore, adding this test at a later time will be dependant upon what type of specimen has been sent. Specimens sent in transfer tubes that do not indicate serum will not be used for add-on CRP, Cardiac testing once the specimen is frozen for storage.

Since refrigerated serum can be used for 48 hours and frozen serum for 7 days, if you anticipate that your specimen may have to store over a few days, please be sure that you collect a serum gel tube (red) instead of the plasma gel tube (green).

MICROBIOLOGY ANTIBIOGRAM

We have recently completed compiling antimicrobial sensitivity data for the calendar year 2008. An antibiogram is the overall antimicrobial susceptibility profile of a bacterial isolate to a battery of antimicrobial agents. This data represents bacterial isolates that were seen at Bellin Health and can serve as an aid to physicians when prescribing antibiotics.

A notice and a copy of the booklet has been sent to providers. If you or your provider need additional copies, please call Bellin Health Laboratory - Customer Service Department at 920-433-3650.

PHYSICIAN ANNUAL MEDICAL NECESSITY NOTICE

Just a note to let everyone know that physician notices are being sent out which outline the tests affected by medical necessity (see separate section in this newsletter) as well as the basic requirements and responsibilities as they relate to the ordering provider.

CORRECTION

In the last update, there was an error made in the notation regarding the automatic call-back value for Troponin testing. The values were switched in the update. The new value is > or = 0.12 ng/mL. The old value was > or = 0.5 ng/mL.

MORE MEDICARE MEDICAL NECESSITY POLICIES

National Government Services has again added new policies that anyone submitting lab testing for patients with Medicare and/or Medicare HMO type of products need to keep in mind. Instead of listing the new policies, I'd like to present the following list of tests that now has some sort of medical necessity guidelines attached to them.

Acid Phosphatase; Prostatic	Acid Phosphatase; Total	Allergen Specific IgE (RAST)
Alpha-fetoprotein; Serum	Blood Smear Exam ;Manual	B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP)
CA 27-29	CA 15-3	CA 19-9
CA 125	CBC with Differential;Automated	CEA
Cholesterol; HDL	Cholesterol; LDL Direct	Cholesterol; Total
Culture; Urine; Identification	Culture; Urine Quantitative	Differential ; Manual
Digoxin	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate	Ferritin
Flow Cytometry	Fructosamine	Flourescent Treponemal Antibody
GGT	Glucose	HCG;Quantitative
Hematocrit	Hemocult ; Diagnostic	Hemocult; Screening
Hemocult; Screening;Immunoassay	Hemoglobin	Hemoglobin A1C
Hemogram (Cell Profile)	Hepatic Function Panel	Hepatitis A Ab – IgM
Hepatitis A Ab – Total	Hepatitis B Core Ab – IgM	Hepatitis B Core Ab – Total
Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	Hepatitis BE Antigen
Hepatitis BE Antibody	Hepatitis C Antibody	Hepatitis C Antibody; Confirm
Hepatitis Delta Agent	Hepatitis Panel – Acute	High Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein
HIV Testing – Diagnostic	HIV Testing-Prognosis & Monitor	Homocysteine Level
Immunoperoxidase Stain – Tissue	Irradiated Blood Products	Lipid Panel
Lipoprotein – Electrophoresis	Lipoprotein – High Resolution	Lipoprotein – Particle & Subclasses
Magnesium	NTx-Telopeptide	Pap Smear – Diagnostic
Pap Smear – Screening	Parathyroid Hormone	Partial Thromboplastin Time - PTT
Platelet Count	Protime – PT	PSA – Diagnostic
PSA – Screening	PSA – Free	RBC Count
Rapid Plasma Reagin – RPR	Sensitivity Testing – Cultures	T4 Free
T4 Total	T3 Uptake	Total Iron Binding Capacity
Transferrin	Triglyceride	Thyroid Stimulating Hormone– TSH
VDRL	White Blood Cell Count	

