

LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE

MARCH 2008

SPECIMEN TRANSPORT/STORAGE TEMPERATURE CHANGE

Changes in guidelines by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS), have prompted a change in how specimens for Prothrombin Times (PT) are stored and transported.

Effective immediately, Prothrombin Time (PT) specimens, whether they are left as whole blood for the 24 hour allotted time or the plasma is taken off into a transfer tube should **not** be stored at refrigerated temperatures. Both types of specimens (whole blood or plasma) can be stored at ambient temperature for up to 24 hours while the plasma specimen also has the option to be stored frozen for extended periods of time.

Since this is a significant change, we will be working with individual clients and their staff as temperature change issues present themselves. Please update any documentation you have on-site to reflect this change.

NEW PANEL ADDED – GENERAL HEALTH PANEL

Also effective immediately, Bellin Health has pulled together a panel of tests into a single billing CPT code. The CPT code of 80050 consists of a Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) **and** a Complete Blood Count (CBC) **and** a Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH). The ordering mnemonic is GHP (General Health Panel).

Please be aware that a General Health Panel is not recognized by Medicare as a benefit, therefore, **General Health Panels should never be ordered on Medicare Patients.** If you want this combination of tests, please order them separately and submit the proper diagnosis codes for each one. The separate tests may be subject to medical necessity guidelines in accordance with the National Coverage Determinations (NCD)

The specimen requirements are the same as for the three separate tests requested and will be available in our on-line catalog. Pricing for the General Health Panel will be a base client price of \$30.00.

CLIENT PRICE CHANGE – PSA

Effective immediately, the base client price for a Prostatic Specific Antigen or PSA will be lowered from \$41.75 to \$ 25.00. A lower test cost has allowed us to pass this savings on to our customers.

SPECIMEN CHANGE – INSULIN

Effective immediately, we can once again accept either serum or EDTA plasma samples for Insulin levels. Please note that if you are running multiple specimens on a single patient, it is suggested that you collect the same type of specimen each time.

Specimens should be separated from the cell layer by centrifugation and removed to a plastic transfer tube within 4 hours of collection if there is no barrier gel present. Please indicate whether the specimen is plasma or serum. Refrigerate or Freeze for transportation to the laboratory.

CPT CODING CHANGE

Due to a coding error, we will once again be changing the CPT coding used for billing out the Iron/Iron Binding Capacity testing.

The base client price will remain constant at \$22.33, however we will be billing out CPT codes of 83540 for Iron and 84466 for Transferrin. Reporting will also remain constant and you will continue to receive results for Iron, Transferring, and Iron Binding Capacity.

CLIENT PRICE CHANGE – LACTIC ACID

Due to an unexpected involuntary change in the testing laboratory, we must increase the charge for the lactic acid testing. There is no change in specimen or CPT coding, however the base client price will go from \$25.88 to \$90.47 each. We regret that we are forced to make this change.

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION CHANGES – QUANTIFERON (TB GOLD)

Due to a change in test scheduling at the referral laboratory, the Quantiferon Testing has a slightly less rigid specimen transportation time frame. Although it is still very restrictive (as outlined in the Outreach Catalog) specimens can be submitted up until 1:00 PM instead of the earlier listed 11:30 AM.

MEDITECH USERS – NEW ORDERABLE TESTS

There are now entries available for ordering the following tests:

Von Willebrand's Panel – VWPANEL

Base client price = \$683.36

CPT codes = 85240, 85245, 85246, 80500

Reflex testing – will be noted on report

Multimer Analysis

Base client price = \$81.28

CPT = 85247

Paraneoplastic Autoantibodies – PARANEOPL

Base client price = \$503.72

CPT codes = 86256 x 9m 83520, 83519 x 4

Reflex testing – will be noted on report (could be any combination of the following)

Paraneoplastic Auto-Antibodies Western Blot

CPT = 84182 Base Client = \$148.40

AchR Receptor Blocking Antibodies

CPT = 83519 Base Client = \$99.86

AchR Receptor Modulating Antibodies

CPT = 83519 Base Client = \$101.49

CRMP-5-IgG Western Blot

CPT = 84182 Base Client = \$96.14

Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase Antibodies

CPT = 86341 Base Client = \$96.14