

LABORATORY OUTREACH UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2010

Notification of new assay - MRSA SA SSTI by PCR

Bellin Lab began offering a real-time PCR assay for the detection on Staphylococcus aureus (SA) and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) from skin and soft tissue infection (SSTI) swabs on September 1, 2010. The assay is indicated for use in conjunction with other lab tests such as culture, and clinical data as an aid in the detection of MRSA and SA from skin and soft tissue infections. Real-time PCR provides the advantages of a greatly decreased time for answers and increased sensitivity. It is not intended to monitor treatment of infections because the test can detect DNA from non-viable organisms. Culture should be used in these cases.

Order as “MRSA SA SSTI by PCR”. Specify the source. **If a culture and sensitivity are also wanted, they must be ordered separately.**

Specimen requirements: Collect two sets of dual culture swabs (red topped BBL culture swab) from the infected area. Label and transport to Lab. If delivery is delayed, refrigerate the specimen.

Analytic time once the specimen arrives in lab is approximately one hour. Testing will be performed 24 hours a day. Results will be reported as:
(Test name: MRSA SA SKIN OR TISSUE PCR)

STAPH AUREUS DNA “DETECTED” or “NOT DETECTED”

MRSA DNA “DETECTED” or “NOT DETECTED”

Base Client Charge will be \$120.34. CPT codes are:
87640 - Staph aureus
87641 - MRSA .

Specimen Labeling and aliquoting

Please note that when you are taking off either serum or plasma from an initial collection tube for transfer to a plastic transport tube, the specimen should be labeled as far as what type of initial collection tube was utilized.

For example, if you have collected specimen into a red-top tube without any separation gel, please note on the sample label – Red/No Gel. If you place orders directly into the Meditech Laboratory Information System, you may be able to print a label that indicates the type of collection was used. Please confirm this by circling the tube indication such as “Red Gel” on the label.

Notification of new assay – Blood Culture SA/MRSA PCR

Effective September 30, 2010 Bellin Lab has begun performing real-time PCR for the detection of Staph aureus (SA) and methicillin-resistant Staph aureus (MRSA) DNA directly from a patient's positive blood cultures. Current culture-based lab methods require an additional 18-48 hours for determination of Staph aureus or MRSA. Our new PCR assay will provide the result within one hour. The assay will be performed 24 hours a day.

The test will be done as reflex testing on one blood culture per patient that shows gram-positive cocci in clusters (indicating Staphylococcus). Additional charges will apply. Please refer to your patient report.

Results will be reported as:

STAPH AUREUS DNA : *DETECTED* or *NOT DETECTED*

MRSA DNA: *DETECTED* or *NOT DETECTED* or *INDETERMINATE*
SUSCEPTIBILITY
PENDING

All positive blood culture reports are considered and automatic call-back result.

The addition of PCR testing will result in an additional base client charge of \$121.52. The CPT codes for the PCR testing is 87150 x 2.

Please call Bellin Lab Customer Service at 433-3650 or Bellin Microbiology department at 433-3725 for more information.

Testosterone Total & Free Testing

Please note the specimen volume needed for the Testosterone Total & Free test that is forwarded to Mayo Medical Laboratory.

The absolute minimum volume of serum needed for this test is 2.0 mL. Please be certain the volume collected and sent meets this minimum requirement. This will generally require the collection of at least 5 mL of whole blood before centrifugation.

For those who order these tests directly into the Laboratory Information System in Meditech, you will receive two labels as a reminder of the large amount of specimen needed.

Endomysial Antibodies – Pricing Change

As indicated above, we were able to decrease client pricing for the Endomysial Antibody Test. The former base client price was \$82.98 and is now \$59.60

New Orderable Test – Celiac Disease Serology Cascade

We have added an ordering code for a basic Celiac Disease Serology Cascade sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories “CELIAC CAS”. Initial testing includes an IgA. If that result is normal, a Tissue Transglutaminase Antibody IgA will be added. In most cases these will be the only two tests performed, however be aware that there are up to four more tests added: Endomysial Ab IgA, Gliadin Ab IgA, Tissue Transglutaminase Antibody IgG, and Gliadin Ab IgG may be added and charged. Please refer to your patient report.

Base Client Charges:

IgA Total : \$15.91 CPT : 82784

Tissue Transglutaminase IgA : \$36.92 CPT : 83516

Tissue Transglutaminase IgG : \$ 30.32 CPT: 83516

Endomysial Antibodies IgA : \$59.60 CPT 86256

Gliadin Antibody IgG: \$34.06 CPT 83516

Gliadin Antibody IgG: \$34.06 CPT 83516

Specimen Change

Aldosterone - Mayo Medical Laboratory has indicated that they will no longer accept specimens collected on serum gel tubes. The specimen must now be collected in a plain (no gel) serum tube (red-top). Centrifuge the specimen as soon as the blood has clotted in the tube and remove serum to a plastic transport tube, freeze and transport.