

## **IMMUNOCAP® ALLERGEN UPDATE**

Dear Physician,

Conditions, like asthma, are at an all time high in our country. More than 30 million people in the US have been diagnosed with this disease and 70 to 80 percent of these people are managed in the primary care setting. Physicians Laboratory Services has had a longstanding interest in identifying new test methods to assist our physicians in delivering the highest quality care. As a result, our laboratory has taken measures to ensure our physicians have access to cutting-edge resources that will significantly enhance the management of asthma in your practice.

The National Institutes of Health issued updated guidelines in 2007 for the diagnosis and management of asthma. These parameters highlight the importance of controlling asthma through a comprehensive management strategy, including: assessment and monitoring, patient education, control of environmental factors contributing to asthma severity, and pharmacologic therapy.

A key component of these guidelines is the control of environmental triggers. Allergies have emerged as one of the most important factors in the development, persistence and potential severity of asthma. Allergy testing helps to educate patients about the importance of specific allergen avoidance and symptom control.

Physicians Laboratory Services now performs ImmunoCAP® Specific IgE blood test technology in our Omaha laboratory. This test will allow our physicians to rule atopy in or out, identify allergic triggers that might cause asthma symptoms and employ targeted allergen reduction measures. These avoidance measures may significantly reduce inflammation, symptoms, the need for medication, and alter disease progression, ultimately improving long-term lung function.

Physicians Laboratory Services recommends the use of ImmunoCAP® testing given its role in improving outcomes for patients with asthma. Attached for your convenience is a list of the ImmunoCAP® profiles available through Physicians Laboratory Services.

Inquiries regarding technical or other scientific aspects of blood allergy may be directed to me at 402-326-0617. For sales and service information, please phone Kacey Moreland, MBA at 1-800-642-1117.



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