

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Volume 2 Issue 4

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2005 SERVICE GUIDE

The 2005 Service Guide is now available. Included in the Service Guide are the new CPT codes for 2005. If you have not received a copy by January 1, 2005, please contact our Supply Department.

Questions: Contact Bev Ruch
Marketing

NEW MICROBIOLOGY TEST

*** EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2004

Test #648 Organism Sensitivity
Test: Known organism is submitted for antibiotic sensitivity testing.
Transport: Organism must be shipped in an "Infectious Shipper", which is supplied by Physicians Laboratory.
CPT code: 87186
Cost: Client \$12.50
Patient \$20.00

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert,
Microbiology Supervisor

REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR URINE CULTURES

Urine is normally a sterile body fluid. Unless properly collected, it can become easily contaminated.

It is essential to note on the requisition how the urine was collected, so the physician can interpret the results per collection method. The collection choices are:

Voided
Midstream
Clean Catch
Straight Catheter
*Indwelling Catheter
Suprapubic Aspirate or Catheter

* Indwelling catheters become colonized with bacteria after 48-72 hours of insertion; so the catheter must be changed before the urine

can be collected. Please note on the requisition the time the indwelling catheter was changed so the Microbiology department can interpret and report the appropriate culture results.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert
Microbiology Supervisor

TRANSPORTING ANAEROBIC CULTURES

Physicians Laboratory provides an anaerobic transport tube for swabs that is called the "Port-A-Cul". The "Port-A-Cul" must not be used for body fluid specimens.

"Port-A-Cul" should always be used when ordering test #613 (Anaerobic Culture) or test #379 (Aerobic and Anaerobic Culture).

1. Aseptically, insert the inoculated culture swab into the "Port-A-Cul" and break off the swab into the tube.
2. Leave the swab in the gel-like media and transport at room temperature.

To obtain a "Port-A-Cul", contact our Supply Department.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert,
Microbiology Supervisor

NEW EOSINOPHIL REFERENCE RANGE

***EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 6, 2004

Eosinophils counted on the Hematology analyzer now have a new reference range.

Eosinophil Normal range: 0-7%

Questions: Contact Stephanie Gillespie
Hematology Supervisor

"CLIENT SERVICE DEPARTMENT" ADDED IN LINCOLN

In the attempt to serve our Lincoln clients more efficiently, we have established a "Client Service

Department". Our new Client Service representative is "Stacy", and she can be reached at 402 488-7710. Also the Lincoln fax number is 402 488-6941. Her duties include answering the phone, responding to inquiries for specimen requirements, reprinting reports, faxing or calling results, dispatching couriers and handling requests for canceling or adding tests. Please contact her for any of those needs.

NEW LOT OF BD TUBES IS NOW AVAILABLE

Please check your BD serum separator (gel barrier, tiger striped) tubes to be sure you are using the new lot number of BD tubes. The new lot numbers are indicated with an "A" at the end of the number. As mentioned in our memorandum, this only affects serum separator tubes.

If an "A" is not present, contact our Supply Department immediately to exchange your tubes for the new lot number.

CAP ACCREDITATION

Physicians Laboratory Services, Omaha, Nebraska, has been reaccredited by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

A team of Inspectors examined the laboratory's test results, quality control and quality assurance records, proficiency test records, qualifications of the staff, laboratory's equipment, the general facilities, the safety program, and the overall management of the laboratory for the preceding two years.

"READ BACK" OF CALLED "CRITICAL VALUE" AND "STAT" RESULTS

According to the "JCAHO 2005 National Patient Safety Goals Applicable to Physician Clinics" communication issues are the most frequent causes in patient injuries and malpractice claims.

To comply with JCAHO Safety Goals, beginning January 1, 2005, we will ask you to "read back" critical values and "stat" test results given over the phone. This will be documented on the report.

SPECIMEN LABELING REQUIREMENTS

1. All specimens must be labeled at the time of collection to provide unique identification. Ideally, a name-number

system is desirable so there are at least two separate identifying items on each sample.

2. The patient's name must be on every specimen submitted to the laboratory.
3. Clinical samples should have pre-printed numbers from the clinical requisition affixed to the specimen.
4. Pap slides should be labeled with the patient's name in pencil on the frosted edge.
5. Tissue specimen containers should be labeled in pencil with patient's name, source of the specimen, and the physician's name.

PREVENTING MEDICARE DENIALS

1. Only the "standard" Medicare waiver Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) can be used and it must be in the correct font.
Do not print your own form.
2. Enter the patient's name and patient's Medicare number at the top of the form.
3. Provide a valid reason.

This information can be found in the CMS Program transmittal AB-02-168. For further questions, contact the Medicare office or www.nebraskamedicare.com.

"TOX TIPS" by Dr. Gregory Post

Oxycodone (Oxycontin), a synthetic opiate, has been associated with an increase in abuse based on substance abuse treatment center admissions. Primarily used for pain relief, the medication has an addiction potential similar to morphine. Our "Substance Abuse Screen 9" (test #351) is designed to detect only morphine and codeine and does not detect oxycodone.

If Oxycodone abuse is suspected, please order under the general test #690 or the unlisted test - Oxycodone, Urine. Submit 20 mL of random urine at room temperature for testing.

THANK YOU

Physicians Laboratory Services, Inc. would like to thank you for choosing PLS as your reference laboratory. We value you as a client and will continue to strive to provide the most accurate and precise testing in a timely and cost efficient manner.

We are looking forward to new and exciting developments for our laboratory in 2005.

All of the employees at Physicians Laboratory Services, Inc. would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season.

