

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Volume 3 Issue 3

September, 2005

## CYTOLOGY SPECIMEN LABELING

In the last few months, we have noticed a significant increase in labeling discrepancies with cytology specimens. This causes testing to be delayed while discrepancies are resolved. We would appreciate your compliance with the following:

1. **Please use the patient's full, legal name on the requisition.**  
*Do not use nicknames.*
2. **The patient's identification on the specimen must match the patient's identification on the requisition.**
3. The complete date of birth must be on the requisition.
4. The first and last name of the requesting physician must be present.
5. The source of the specimen must be indicated on the requisition.
6. When applicable, include patient history for optimal evaluation.

Questions: Contact Tom Engel,  
Cytology Supervisor

## CHANGE IN URINE COLLECTION KITS

Becton Dickinson (BD), one of our vendors for specimen collection, recently informed us that the glass tubes in urine collection kits were discontinued and replaced with plastic tubes. This is a growing trend in the laboratory industry. The goal is to make products safer as well as less costly when disposing of hazardous waste. We, at Physicians Laboratory, carefully monitor the safety, disposal issues and cost of items we make available to you.

## ANIMAL BILE ACIDS

Test numbers are now available for the following:

Single Bile Acid (Pre <b>or</b> Post)	#940	\$33
Bile Acids (Pre <b>and</b> Post)	#771	\$50

## TEST # 1366 FREE T3

Physicians Laboratory has adopted a new Free T3 assay. This assay has improved reproducibility, decreased sample size, and decreased susceptibility to interfering agents, such as heterophilic antibodies. **Effective September 1, 2005**, the normal range has changed.

Old Normal Range	2.3 – 8.0 pg/mL
<b>New Normal Range</b>	<b>2.0 – 4.0 pg/mL</b>

## p-ANCA vs. Pan-ANCA

**Test #1611 ANCA** is composed of c-ANCA and **p-ANCA**. p-ANCA cannot be ordered separately.

**Test #9221 Pan-ANCA** tests for PR3 (proteinase 3) and MPO (myeloperoxidase autoantibody) without initial screening for ANCA. If PR3 and/or MPO is positive, reflex testing for ANCA (test 1611) is performed.

The Pan-ANCA test provides quicker turnaround time; however, this test is more expensive than the ANCA.

Test #1611 ANCA	\$50
Test #9221 Pan-ANCA	\$100

## POSITIVE RESULTS FOR TEST # 6601 MRSA SCREEN

Effective September 1, 2005, Microbiology personnel will only call positive MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staph. Aureus) results to hospitals and nursing homes. Physician offices will no longer be called.

Questions: Shari Talbert  
Microbiology Supervisor

## TEST #613 ANAEROBIC CULTURE

To provide optimal results, anaerobic cultures must be collected in the appropriate media transport tube (**Port-A-Cul**). Anaerobic cultures require anaerobic conditions that our regular culturette cannot supply. The Port-A-Cul is pictured below and is used for aerobes as well as anaerobes.



1. Collect material on a swab and place the swab into the Port-A-Cul.
2. Maintain at room temperature.
3. Specify source on the requisition.
4. Testing should be performed within 24 hrs.

Call our Supply Dept. to obtain the Port-A-Cul.

**NEW TESTS AVAILABLE**  
**EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2005**

**Test #9300 Celiac Panel I**

Panel includes test #7567 Reticulin IgA, test #3021 Endomysial IgA, and test #1642 Gliadin IgG and IgA.

Specimen: 3 – (1 mL aliquots of serum), refrigerated  
 Reference range: Per report.  
 CPT code: 83516 x 3, 86255  
 Cost Client \$ 100

**Test #9309 Celiac Panel 2**

Includes Celiac Panel I and tests #7478 Tissue Transglutaminase IgA and #8001 Tissue Transglutaminase IgG.

Specimen 5 – (1 mL aliquots of serum), refrigerated  
 Reference range: Per report.  
 CPT code: 83516 x 5, 86255  
 Cost Client \$ 200  
 Questions: Contact Lisa Hart, Processing Coordinator.

**HOW TO USE THE 3 VIAL PARA-PAK COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR STOOLS**

Stool specimens for Microbiology testing need to be collected in the 3 vial Para-Pak Collection System. *The addition of the orange-capped vial is important for stool cultures and giardia/crypto. antigen detection.*

Ideally, all three vials should be full, but if there is not enough specimen available, place in the following order.

1. Place stool in the white-capped vial to the fill line.
2. Place stool in the orange-capped vial till the liquid rises to the fill line.
3. Place stool in the green-capped vial to the fill line.

Label all vials appropriately and refrigerate.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert Microbiology Supervisor

**ADD ON TESTING**

Physicians Laboratory has validated the stability of the following analytes up to seven (7) days following collection:

Test #303	T4
Test #195	TSH
Test #85	T4, Free
Test #302	T3 Uptake
Test #1134	Ferritin
Test #106	Lipid Panel

Providing there is adequate quantity of specimen for testing, the above tests can be added by contacting our Client Services Department within 7 days of the draw date.

**UNSPUN SPECIMENS**

We have been receiving many blood specimens that require serum or plasma for testing uncentrifuged. It is recommended to centrifuge samples thirty minutes after collection to minimize the time of exposure to red blood cells. Tests that can be adversely affected by prolonged exposure (over 3 hrs.) include glucose and potassium.

Uncentrifuged blood at room temperature decreases glucose concentrations up to 7% per hour. Prolonged exposure to red cells allows potassium to “leech” out of the red blood cells and artificially elevate the level found in serum/plasma. A hypokalemic (low potassium) sample may appear normal, while a normal potassium may appear hyperkalemic (high potassium). Separation within 1 hour of draw is recommended to minimize these effects.

Gregory Post, Ph.D.

**2005 PRICE LIST CHANGES**

If you have not yet received a copy of the “2005 Price List Changes”, which was sent out the week of August 29, please contact Pam Otto at 402 731-4145, 1-800-642-1117 or email [potto@physlab.com](mailto:potto@physlab.com)

**PHONE PROBLEMS**

Some of our clients have had difficulties in calling us when using our 800 number (1-800-642-1117). If you experience difficulty, please notify our Receptionist at 402 731-4145.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

If there are topics you'd like discussed in future issues, please contact Pam Otto at 402 731-4145, 1-800-642-1117 or email [potto@physlab.com](mailto:potto@physlab.com)