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**Tests Now Added to our  
"In-House" Menu**

Effective March 13, 2007, the following tests will now be performed at Physicians Laboratory:

**TEST #342 PTH and Total Calcium**

**Parathyroid hormone (PTH)** is directly involved in calcium homeostasis. Release of PTH from the parathyroid glands stimulates increased absorption of calcium from the gut, increased resorption from bone and decreased excretion by the kidneys. Elevated serum calcium inhibits PTH release, while decreased serum calcium stimulates PTH from the parathyroid gland. Parathyroid adenoma causes increased calcium levels with an increased serum PTH.

Specimen: 1 mL serum  
 Storage: Frozen  
 Testing: Performed two days a week in Omaha Chemistry and reported same day of testing.  
 Reference range: PTH 14-72 pg/mL  
 Calcium 8.5-10.1 mg/dL.  
 CPT code: 83970 (PTH)  
 82310 (Calcium)  
 Cost: \$45  
 Questions: Contact Jan Nelson, Chemistry Supervisor

**TEST #936 Ionized Calcium**

Specimen: 3.0 Serum Separator Tube (SST), **unopened**  
 Storage: Refrigerated for three days  
 Testing: Performed two days a week in Omaha Chemistry and reported same day of testing.  
 Reference range: 1.11-1.30 mM/L  
 CPT code: 82330  
 Cost: \$28

Questions: Contact Jan Nelson, Chemistry Supervisor

**TEST # 2070 Leiden Factor V and Prothrombin G20210A Mutation**

Specimen: 5 mL EDTA whole blood  
 Storage: Refrigerated for one week  
 Testing: Performed Tuesday and Thursday in Omaha Molecular Pathology and reported same day of testing  
 Reference range: Negative for Factor V Leiden, R506Q mutation and Negative for the factor II prothrombin 20210A mutation

**For CPT and Cost, see information below.**

Questions: Contact Gregory Post, Ph.D.

**Leiden Factor V and G20210A Prothrombin Gene Mutation** determine whether a person has genetic defects for inherited thrombosis. Leiden Factor V should be used for a clinically suspected, thrombophilia patient that has an abnormally prolonged baseline aPTT, is on anticoagulant therapy, has activated protein C resistance, and/or has a family history of the mutation. The G20210A Mutation also aids in the diagnosis of pregnancy complications due to abruptio placenta and fetal growth retardation. G20210A mutation causes elevated plasma prothrombin levels.

**Leiden Factor V and Prothrombin Mutation may be ordered individually:**

**Test #2071 Leiden Factor V**  
**Test #2072 Prothrombin G20210 A Gene Mutation**

Note: Cost is \$100 per test and CPT codes are 83890, 83898, 83912, and 83896 x 2 per test.

**DISCONTINUED TEST**

**Effective March 26, 2007, test #909 Maternal Screen which contains AFP (Alpha Fetoprotein) and hCG is no longer available.** Order #1911 Fetal Risk Assessment, which contains AFP, hCG, and Estriol or #8024 Quad Screen which contains AFP, hCG, Estriol and Inhibin. Test #1910 AFP Tumor Marker is still available.

**PHYSICIANS LABORATORY  
SELECTED**

Physicians Laboratory was selected by Olympus Diagnostics to receive the first U.S. placement of their new generation immunoassay analyzer (AU3000®). We are currently in the process of "beta testing" thyroid tests for Olympus and look forward to evaluating a full menu of endocrine tests as they become available. Physicians Laboratory is one of three laboratories nationwide to be chosen for this evaluation.

### **WEBSITE TEST DIRECTORY**

The Website ([www.physlab.com](http://www.physlab.com)) has been recently updated and provides the most current specimen requirements. You may look up by using "test name" or "test number". "Links" are provided which point to our reference laboratories.

#### **To create a shortcut to Physicians Laboratory Test Directory on your desktop:**

Go to the Physicians Laboratory Services, Inc. website ([www.physlab.com](http://www.physlab.com)) and once the website is open, do the following steps:

1. Under the "Clients" tab, select "Test Directory"
2. Once the test directory opens, "right click" your mouse and select the "Create Shortcut" option

### **UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE**

As previously noted, Physicians Laboratory is still a participating provider for laboratories with United Healthcare. Go to [www.uhclablocator.com](http://www.uhclablocator.com) to view the laboratories that are providers for United Healthcare.

### **SPECIMEN LABELING AND REQUISITION INFORMATION**

We have noticed a significant increase in unlabeled specimens or labeling discrepancies with specimens and requisitions. Testing is delayed until the 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. Print the patient's name on the specimen tube. *Please do not write the patient's name on the requisition sticker.*
4. The complete date of birth must be on the requisition.
5. The **first and last name** of the requesting physician must be present on the requisition.
6. If applicable, indicate the source of the specimen on the requisition.

Questions: Contact Lisa Hart  
Processing Coordinator

### **PLASMA OR SERUM?**

When submitting serum AND/OR plasma, it is imperative to designate which is which. Some tests can only be performed on serum or plasma, and if the specimen is unknown, testing will be delayed and perhaps even cancelled.

Questions: Contact Lisa Hart  
Processing Coordinator

### **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD DENIALS**

Blue Cross/ Blue Shield has begun denying claims if they are not submitted with the primary insurer's name and date of birth. This is additional information that has not been required in the past by Physicians Laboratory, but has now become necessary.

The simplest way to submit this information is to send a copy of the patient's insurance card. If that is not possible, print a demographic sheet from the office information system or write the information on the requisition. We sincerely appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Questions: Contact Sue Kingslan - Billing

### **CODING RULES**

Thank you for your help in providing acceptable codes for Prothrombin and aPTT pre-ops. As we stated before, V72.84 is no longer a valid code for these tests.

*Another code that needs explaining is V70.0, which screens for well-patient physicals.*

**Medicare NEVER pays for screening, so if this code is used, laboratories may bill the patient, even though no waiver was signed.**

If your Medicare patient has diagnosis codes that will pay for the tests, please use them. *Do not include V70.0 since no tests will be paid for.*

For those Medicare patients that are truly seen for a physical and have no other diagnosis codes, it is not necessary to get a waiver signed. In the future, Physicians Laboratory will bill the patient for those orders that have V70.0 as one of the diagnosis codes.