

Laboratory Update



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Business Unit: [Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia](#)

Immediate Action December 6, 2011

Dear Colleague,

Please see below for immediate changes effective December 6, 2011. Only changes are included – other test information remains the same unless specifically noted.

Thank you for choosing Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia and for your continued support. For additional information, we invite you to visit our Web site at www.NicholsInstitute.com/Valencia or contact Client Relations at 800-421-4449.

Respectfully Yours,

Powers Peterson, M.D , FASCP, FCAP
Medical Director

Immediate Changes

Valproic acid, Free		
Effective Date:	Immediate	
Test Code:	3361	
Former Test Name	<i>Valproic Acid, Free</i>	
Specimen Requirements:	Type: (Revised) Opt Volume: Min Volume: Collection Instructions:	Serum, Plasma EDTA, <i>Plasma Royal Blue</i> 1.0 mL 0.5 mL Avoid contact of samples with plasticizers, varnishes, paint fumes, and fatty acids. Do not use gel barrier tubes. Optimum time to collect sample is 1 hour before next dose. Rejection criterion: The use of (SS, serum separator tube) is not acceptable. Submission of an (SS) tube will result in cancellation.
Rejection Criteria:	Gel barrier tube (SST)	
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated	
Specimen Stability:	Room Temperature: Refrigerated: Frozen:	48 hours 7 days 30 days
Reference Ranges Units	mg/L (conversion of units – no change in reference range)	
Methodology:	Immunoassay	
Performing Site:	Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia	

Phenytoin, Free		
Effective Date:	Immediate	
Test Code:	4143	
Specimen Requirements:	Type: Opt Volume: Min Volume:	Serum, Plasma EDTA 1.0 mL 0.5 mL
Specimen Stability:	Room Temperature: Refrigerated: Frozen:	5 days 7 days 30 days
Reference Ranges:	Phenytoin, Free	1.0 – 2.0 mg/L (decimal point change)
Methodology:	Immunoassay	
Performing Site:	Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia	
Additional Information	Toxic levels are equal or greater than 3.5 mg/L. Also affected test code 4144 Phenytoin Free & Total	

HPV DNA, High Risk, Anal-Rectal		
Effective Date:	Immediate	
Test Code:	1821R	
Specimen Requirements:	Type: (Addition) Opt Volume: Min Volume: Collection Instructions:	Dacron swab Digene T-Media 1.0 mL 1.0 mL DACRON SWAB OR ANAL-RECTAL BRUSH To collect an anal-rectal sample, a tap water-moistened Dacron swab is used. The Dacron swab is inserted about 5-6 cm into the anal canal past the anal verge, into the rectal vault. This is done without direct visualization of the anal canal. Firm lateral pressure is applied to the swab handle as it is rotated and slowly withdrawn from the anal canal, inscribing a cone-shaped arc. Avoid using cotton swabs on a wooden stick because the handle may break and splinter during collection. The Sample may also be collected using the cervical sampler brush provided in the Digene Cervical Sampler Collection Kit. Brush or swab that is grossly contaminated with feces should be discarded and the collection repeated. Remove the cap from the Digene Standard Transport Medium (STM) supplied with the collection kit. Immediately insert swab or brush to the bottom of the transport tube. Snap off shaft at score line and cap tube securely. Anal/rectal brush or Dacron swab specimens collected in at least 4 mL of ThinPrep solution vials may be held for up to 2 weeks prior to shipping. Swabs are not acceptable for endocervical collection. Specimens collected in other liquid cytology media (such as SurePath) will be rejected.
Specimen Stability:	Room Temperature: Refrigerated: Frozen:	14 days 21 days 3 months
Performing Site:	Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Valencia	
Additional Information	Also affects test code 1822R: HPV DNA, High and Low Risk, Anal-Rectal	