

July 22, 2008

**Dear Colleague:**

As *Specialty Laboratories* continues to enhance our client communication processes, we are pleased to announce an upcoming modification. Effective August 1, 2008, we will begin notifying clients of QNS (Quantity Not Sufficient) and TNP (Test Not Performed) issues via our automated fax process. This procedure is similar to the DCI-Pending and Test Down/Test Delay automated fax notification processes that were implemented early last year. All were designed to improve communication and provide more timely, detailed documentation. An added benefit is that this method provides a hard copy of the QNS/TNP issues for investigation or record-keeping purposes. Please contact your client relations representatives or Russ Shultz, our Director of Client Relations, at (800) 421-4449 x6711 with any questions.

Please note that we have some new shipping materials available - *Specialty* has developed a new shipping alternative to our foam sponge. Our new shipping box allows samples to be inserted in numerical order. It also has pre-affixed labels for recording Client Number, Temperature and Specimen Count in each box. A convenient peel off label is included, so that a copy of the label can be retained for your records. An added advantage of the boxes is that they store flat, consuming less storage space. They are shipped in quantities of 50, in a 9 x 12 inch case, and include the plastic bags. These boxes are available using part number 0003312.

We also now offer a new specimen label indicating "Irreplaceable Specimens". These specimen types are triaged on a priority basis. These are available using part number 0003134. All supplies can be requested by contacting Client Relations at 800-421-4449.

Due to a change in assay platform, **HIV-1 RNA Quantitation [7485A, 7482A, 7485ASR] requires 5mL of sample with a minimum of 3mL** to provide a result. This has always been our published volume requirement, but it is no longer possible to process "short" specimens (which have been submitted frequently in the past). Please make sure your phlebotomy staff is aware of this requirement. Improved laboratory testing methodologies may necessitate changes in specimen requirements, making it imperative that all phlebotomy staff know the correct specimen type, volume and collection tube(s) for all patient draws. Please consult our website at [www.specialtylabs.com](http://www.specialtylabs.com) for the most up-to-date collection instructions.

We also would like to remind you that *Specialty* does not perform in-house testing on autopsy specimens or specimens that require "chain of custody" procedures. We have a number of sendout codes already built into our system for autopsy testing and your inquiries are again directed to our Client Relations Department for assistance before sending these specimens.

We thank you for choosing *Specialty* and look forward to your continued support. For additional information, please visit our Web site at [www.specialtylabs.com](http://www.specialtylabs.com) or contact Client Relations at 800-421-4449.

Respectfully Yours,



Christopher Lockhart, M.D.  
Laboratory Director

# Test Changes:

<b>5042</b>	<b>T-Cell Gene Rearrangement DetectR™</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83900, 83901x3, 83909x2, 83912
<b>5042BK</b>	<b>T-Cell Gene Rearrangement DetectR™-Paraffin Block</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83900, 83901x3, 83909x2, 83912, 83907
<b>5044</b>	<b>B-Cell Rearrangement DetectR™</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83898x3, 83909x3, 83912
<b>5044BK</b>	<b>B-Cell Rearrangement DetectR™-Paraffin Block</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83898x3, 83909x3, 83912, 83907
<b>5040</b>	<b>B-Cell &amp; T-Cell Gene Rearrangement DetectR™</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83898x3, 83900, 83901x3, 83909x4, 83912
<b>5040BK</b>	<b>B-Cell &amp; T-Cell Gene Rearrangement DetectR™-Paraffin Block</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83891, 83898x3, 83900, 83901x3, 83909x4, 83912, 83907
<b>2932U</b>	<b><i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> rRNA[TMA] Urine</b>
Effective	Immediately
Specimen/Stability	Urine 20.0 (10.0) mL; Ambient 30 days. Refrigerated 30 days, Frozen 3 months.
<b>4964</b>	<b>Clozapine &amp; Norclozapine</b>
Effective	Immediately
CPT Code	83789
<b>3895</b>	<b>Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT)</b>
Effective	Immediately
Therapeutic Range	The therapeutic range for unfractionated heparin anticoagulant therapy is 1.5- 2.5 X the normal reference range mean value. For patients with an apparent heparin resistance, a heparin level by an anti-Xa method is available.
Also affected	3896, 1910, 5963, 5976, 5962, 5961

# Test Changes: (Cont'd)

**1911 Lupus Anticoagulant: DRVVT W/Reflex Confirmation**  
Effective August 19, 2008  
Reference Range <1.20  
Note When the result for LAC Screen is >1.19 LAC Confirm will be performed for an additional fee. Add CPT code 85613.  
Note Normalized LAC Ratio (in confirmation panel RIT) to be reported in 2 decimal places.  
Normalized LAC Ratio; LAC Interpretation  
<1.20 LA is Not Detected  
1.20-1.50 LA is present (weak)  
1.51-2.00 LA is present (moderate)  
>2.00 LA is present (strong)  
LAC Interpretation Not detected  
Also affected 5963, 5976, 5962, 1082, 1910, 1081

**8156 Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis Evaluation**  
Effective Immediately  
CPT Code 86001x8, 86744, 86609x4, 86606

**8157 Hypersensitivity Evaluation II**  
Effective Immediately  
CPT Code 86606, 86744, 86609x3

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**The CPT Codes provided are based on AMA Guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT Coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding CPT Coding to the payer being billed.**

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# Discontinued Tests:

## Effective Immediately:

- 8972**      ***Toxoplasma gondii* Encephalitis AccuDx®**  
Replaced by: No replacement
- 1056**      **Myelin Basic Protein (MBP) Autoantibodies**  
Replaced by: S51647 Myelin IgG Antibody, IFA [20545]
- 1056C**      **Myelin Basic Protein (MBP) Autoantibodies CSF**  
No replacement
- 3515W**      **Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) Whole Blood**  
Replaced by: S51672 Vitamin B1, Whole Blood [5042X]
- 5668CAR**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom Drug-Carbenicillin**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675CAR**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Carbenicillin**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675CEF1**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Cefaclor**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675CEF4**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Cefixime**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675CF15**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Cefpodoxime**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675CLA**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Clarithromycin**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675LOM**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Lomefloxacin**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request
- 5675STR**      **Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Streptomycin**  
Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request

# Discontinued Tests: (Cont'd)

## **5675SUL1 Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Sulfadiazine**

Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request

## **5675TRO Aerobic Suscept: Custom MIC-Trovafloxacin**

Replaced by: Send Out panel available upon request

### **Effective July 28, 2008:**

## **7579 Cytomegalovirus PP67 DetectR™**

No replacement

### **Effective August 19, 2008**

## **S49589 Organic Acid Urine/CSF**

Replaced by: S51667 Organic Acids, Quant, Random Urine, Full Panel [41335n]  
Performed at Quest San Juan Capistrano; Note: only Urine is available

## **S51165 Serotonin Release Assay Lovenox and Porcine**

## **S50500 Serotonin Release Assay, 1 Drug**

Replaced by: S51624 Serotonin Release Assay [14627X] performed at Quest San Juan Capistrano

## **S50086 C-Telopeptide Serum [130]**

Replaced by: S51253 CTX-Collagen Type I [17406X] performed at Quest San Juan Capistrano

## **S41040 Iron-Liver Tissue (Samples <500 MG) [8350]**

Replaced by: 3536 Iron Liver performed at Specialty Laboratories