



SPECIALTY LABORATORIES

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Santa Monica, CA 90404

800•421•4449

May-June 2004
REVISED 6-15-04

Dear Colleague:

At *Specialty* we continue to focus on working with you to reduce the problems that can result in tests not being performed.

- After discussions with Becton-Dickinson, we have confirmed that freezing and shipping specimens in serum separator tubes is likely to adversely affect sample integrity. This is particularly important when testing for drug levels or working with frozen samples. We have included a flyer as a reminder with this letter and will send copies with orders of serum separator tubes from our Client Supply department.
- We would also like to call to your attention that the wooden shaft of a swab should generally not be included with samples for TMA/GenProbe *Chlamydia/Neisseria* (CT/GC) tests because a substance eluted from the wood can interfere with amplification. Wooden shafts can also interfere with viral cultures.
- In our flyer recommending that PPT tubes be centrifuged prior to shipment, we failed to emphasize that frozen samples are preferred due to the 48-72 hour specimen stability for HIV and Hepatitis C Virus RNA testing.

Hexosaminidase Testing

Due to changes made by the referral lab, please note the following:

- S50585 Hexosaminidase A,B serum is for males and non-pregnant females.
- S49273 Hexosaminidase, leukocytes is for pregnant, non-Ashkenazic females
NOTE: All abnormal results for this test will automatically have the DNA test reflexed at an additional cost.

For additional information on testing or other specimen collection guidelines, please contact Client Services at 800-421-4449.

Michael C. Dugan, M.D.
Vice President and Co-Director of Laboratory



New from *Specialty*

Effective Tuesday, June 15, 2004 or as noted

8134 Hepatitis B Virus GenotypR™

Component	Method	Reference Range Units
HBV Genotype	INNO-LiPA	By report
Specimen/Stability	4 (2) mL Plasma EDTA; Frozen – 2 Month(s)	
Alternate Specimens		
Specimen Stability	4 (2) mL Plasma ACD Frozen – 2 Month(s)	
Collection Instructions	Split specimen into 2 plastic vials and freeze immediately. Ship frozen on dry ice by overnight courier.	
Clinical Utility	Identifies HBV Genotypes A, B, C, D, E, F, and mixture A/D. Some studies indicate that patients with HBV Genotype C experience decreased response to interferon therapy. HBV Genotype D patients may be more likely to develop recurrence than Genotype A. The predominant Genotypes are A, D, and mixtures of A/D, accounting for 89% of all genotypes in some studies.	
Schedule	Wednesday	
Turnaround Time	2-8 days	
CPT Code	83890, 83898, 83904x6, 83912	

8144 Hepatitis B Virus Core/Pre-Core Mutant DetectR™

Component	Method	Reference Range Units
Basal Core Promoter Nucleotide	INNO-LiPA	Wild Type
Pre-Core Codon 28	INNO-LiPA	Wild Type
Specimen/Stability	4 (2) mL Plasma EDTA or ACD; Frozen – 2 Month(s)	
Collection Instructions	Split specimen into two plastic vials and freeze immediately. Ship frozen on dry ice by overnight courier.	
Clinical Utility	Mutations in the basal core promoter and pre-core regions of the HBV genome may decrease or abolish HBeAg production.	
Schedule	Wednesday	
Turnaround Time	2-8 days	
CPT Code	83890, 83892x2, 83894x2, 83898x2, 83912	
Notes	Identifies substitution mutations in the HBV Basal Core Promoter gene nucleotide positions 1762 and 1764. The Wild Type nucleotide combination is A1762/G1764. Identifies mutations in the HBV PreCore gene codon 28.	

Test Reactivation

5822 Chromosome Analysis Amniotic Fluid

effective 5/17/04

Panel Component Offered as Test

The following tests are generally ordered as part of clinically useful panels, but may also be ordered individually. For more information, please contact Client Services at 800-421-4449 or visit our Web site at www.specialtylabs.com.

4119U	Amphetamines Urine
8862	<i>Bartonella henselae</i> DNA DetectR™
5784	Blood Culture: Aerobic
8833	<i>Brucella</i> IgM Antibodies
2429	<i>Ureaplasma urealyticum</i>

Test Changes

Effective Tuesday, June 15, 2004 or as noted

<u>Test Code</u>	<u>Test Name</u>	<u>Specific Change</u>	<u>Also Affected</u>
5801	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Eye/Ear reflex to Susceptibility	<u>Name</u> Eye/Ear Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5776	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Genital reflex to Susceptibility	Genital Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5775	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Respiratory reflex to Susceptibility	Respiratory Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5771	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Routine Miscellaneous reflex to Susceptibility	Routine Miscellaneous Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5700	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Stool Comprehensive reflex to Susceptibility	Stool Comprehensive Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5701	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Stool Routine reflex to Susceptibility	Stool Routine Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5772	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Throat	Throat Culture	
5773	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Urine	Urine Culture (reflex to Susceptibility)	
5774	Aerobic/Anaerobic Bacterial Culture: Blood	<u>Name</u> Blood Culture Aerobic/Anaerobic (reflex to Susceptibility) <u>Specimen Requirements</u> Specimens in Isolator tube or ACD tube are not acceptable; collect specimen in blood culture bottle <u>Collection Instructions</u> 1. Collect a minimum of 10 mL blood in blood culture bottle prior to a predicted fever spike or before the administration of antibiotics. 2. For pediatric patients, collect 0.5 mL to 2.0 mL of blood. 3. Collecting two sets of cultures, one from each of two prepared sites at least 30 minutes intervals, is recommended.	
8831	<i>Brucella abortus</i> IgG, IgM & IgA Antibodies	<u>Name</u> <i>Brucella</i> IgG, IgM & IgA Abs <u>Clinical Utility</u> Aids in the diagnosis of brucellosis caused by <i>B. abortus</i> , <i>B. melitensis</i> , <i>B. suis</i> and <i>B. canis</i>	8836 <i>Brucella</i> IgG Abs
7584P	Epstein-Barr Virus DNA UltraQuant® Plasma	<u>Alternate Specimen</u> Plasma EDTA acceptable <u>Alternate Specimen Stability</u> Ambient – 7 Day(s), Refrigerated – 14 Day(s), Frozen – 2 Month(s)	
5920	F-actin IgG Autoantibodies	<u>Reference Range</u> Negative: Less than 20.0 Units Weak Positive: 20.0 – 30.0 Units Positive: Greater than 30.0 Units <u>Specimen</u> Heparinized and EDTA plasma are no longer accepted; serum is only acceptable specimen	5906 Hepatitis Autoimmune EvaluatR™ Plus 5908 Hepatitis Autoimmune EvaluatR™
5911	Human Anti-Mouse Antibodies (HAMA)	<u>Stability</u> Serum Frozen – 2 Month(s); Refrigerated is not acceptable	
8516	Influenza Virus A & B IgG, IgM & IgA Antibodies	<u>Alternate Specimen</u> Plasma EDTA or Heparinized; Ambient, Refrigerated or Frozen	

3295	Interferon Beta (1a & 1b) Autoantibodies	<u>Specimen Temperature</u> Ambient or Refrigerated is not acceptable. Ship serum samples frozen.	
5921	LDL (Low Density Lipoprotein) Sub-Fractions	<u>Component</u> Add "Calculated LDL" <u>Reference Range</u> Mean LDL Particle Size greater than 26.7 nm Calculated LDL less than 130 mg/dL	
9501	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i> Antigen Detection Urine	<u>Specimen Stability</u> Frozen specimen acceptable/Stability 2 Month(s)	
2945	Malaria Organism Detection	<u>Specimen</u> Whole blood (EDTA) and three thin blood smears (fixed with methanol) and three thick blood smears (unfixed) <u>Stability</u> Ambient – 24 Hour(s) <u>Collection Instructions</u> 1. Prepare thin smear using the blood differential method. Air dry for 10 minutes. Fix with methanol for 5 seconds. 2. For thick smears, add 1 drop of the EDTA blood onto a clean microscopic slide. Spread the blood into a dime-sized area. Dry for 30 minutes. DO not fix with methanol. 3. Submit thin and thick slides in cardboard slide holder. These slides and the EDTA specimen should be submitted to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.	
1592	Monoclonal Gammopathy Evaluation	<u>Specimen Stability</u> Urine Ambient – 5 Day(s), Refrigerated – 14 Day(s), Frozen – 2 Month(s)	
4951	HIV MonitR™ - Nelfinavir <i>Effective 5/18/04</i>	<u>Component</u> Delete component Nelfinavir M8 Metabolite from panel.	
1711	Phosphatidylserine IgG, IgM & IgA Abs	<u>Reference Range</u> IgG Less than 11.0 GPS U/mL IgM Less than 25.0 MPS U/mL IgA Less than 20.0 APS U/mL	1080S Antiphospholipid Syndrome Eval w/o Lupus Anticoagulant 1081 Antiphospholipid Syndrome EvaluatR™ 1082 Antiphospholipid Syndrome Eval Expanded 1776 Antiphospholipid Evaluation
1012	Rheumatoid Factor IgG, IgM & IgA Autoantibodies	<u>Method</u> IgM change to EIA from NEPH <u>Reference Range</u> IgG, IgM, IgA (each) Less than 6.1 Units	1013 Rheumatoid Arthritis EvaluatR™
5917	Soluble Liver Antigen Autoantibodies	<u>Reference Range</u> Negative: Less than 20.1 Units Equivocal: 20.1 – 24.9 Units Positive: Greater Than 24.9 Units	5906 Hepatitis Autoimmune EvaluatR™ Plus 5908 Hepatitis Autoimmune EvaluatR™
7585	Varicella-Zoster DNA DetectR™	<u>Alternate Specimen</u> 2.0(0.5) mL Amniotic Fluid <u>Stability for Alternate Specimen</u> Ambient – 4 Day(s), Refrigerated – 4 Day(s), Frozen – 2 Month(s)	8760 Varicella-Zoster Virus DNA UltraQuant®

Discontinued Tests

Effective Tuesday, June 8, 2004 or as noted

The following test(s) are no longer routinely available from *Specialty*. Whenever possible, alternate tests are recommended. Please note that if a test is designated as a "replacement," contractual pricing will be copied from discontinued test to replacement test. Contractual pricing does not apply to alternate tests or sendout tests. Please contact Client Services or your Sales Representative if you have any questions.

Test Code	Test Name	Reason	Alternate or Replacement Tests
5802	Aerobic Bacterial Culture: Environ'l	Low-volume	No recommendations
S41181	Allergen – Douglas Fir IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RT207 Allergen – Douglas Fir IgE
S41522	Allergen – Scallops IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF338 Allergen-Scallops IgE
S41747	Allergen – Watermelon IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF329 Allergen – Watermelon IgE
S42056	Allergen – Olive Tree - European IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	T9 Allergen – Allergen-Olive IgE
S42961	Allergen – Cranberry IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF341 Allergen – Cranberry IgE
S43073	Allergen – Cypress Arizona IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RT222 Allergen – Cypress, Arizona IgE
S43862	Allergen – Bean White/Navy IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	F15 Allergen – White bean IgE
S46006	Allergen – Oak, Virginia Live IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RT218 Allergen – Oak, Virginia Live IgE
S46007	Allergen – Sorrel, Sheep IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	W18 Allergen – Sheep sorrel IgE
S46798	Allergen – Dog Hair/Dander IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	E4 Allergen – Dog Dander IgE
S46972	Allergen – Sage (Food) IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF344 Allergen – Sage(Food) IgE
S47430	Allergen – Macadamia Nut	In-house test available [alternate]	RF345 Allergen – Macadamia Nut
S48200	Allergen – Allspice IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF339 Allergen – Allspice IgE
S48730	Allergen – Pine White IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	T16 Allergen – White Pine IgE
S48985	Allergen – Rape Seed/Canola [364]	In-house test available [alternate]	RF316 Allergen – Rape Seed IgE
S49083	Allergen – Carmine Dye Extract IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	RF340 Allergen – Carmine Dye Extract IgE
S49522	Allergen – Gelatine Bovine [468]	In-house test available [alternate]	C74 Allergen – Gelatine Bovine IgE
S49531	Allergen – Protamine IgE [1041]	In-house test available [alternate]	RC207 Allergen – Protamine IgE
S50335	Allergen – German Cockroach IgE	In-house test available [alternate]	I6 Allergen – Cockroach IgE
5642	<i>Escherichia coli</i> Enteroinvasive Toxin	Reagents not available	5640 <i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7 Culture [alternate] 5639 <i>E. coli</i> Enterohemorrhagic (0157:H7) Stool Culture [alternate]
2504	<i>Legionella</i> Culture: Environmental		No recommendations

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