



Lab Update



LABORATORY PHONE 585-LABS

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LabUpdate is a periodic publication of the Clinical Laboratory of UC Health. By way of this publication, lab users are provided: 1) updated operational information relevant to the practice of laboratory medicine within UC Health facilities, and 2) didactic material generally applicable to laboratory medicine.

Test Utilization***Neuro Myelitis Optica Testing***

NMO, also known as Neuromyelitis Optica or Devic's Disease is a neurological condition consisting of inflammation and demyelination of the optic nerve and spinal cord. NMO can present with visual impairment, muscle weakness, reduced peripheral sensation and loss of bladder and bowel control. The NMO IGG testing helps differentiate between true Neuromyelitis Optica and Multiple Sclerosis because many symptoms are similar between the two diseases. NMO IGG antibodies (also known as AQP4 antibodies) have been detected in 60-90% of patients with NMO.

Two different test codes have been created based upon specimen type:

- **NMO CSF** testing is performed by Mayo Laboratories using IFA (indirect immunofluorescence assay)

- **NMO Serum testing** is performed by LabCorp using ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay)

In EPIC the test codes are as listed below based upon the specimen to be collected:

NMO CSF Specimen**EPIC Test: LAB2021****NMO Serum Specimen****EPIC Test: LAB2022**

If you have any questions regarding these tests, please contact Lab Customer Service at 585-LABS

Molecular Diagnostics***Staph Screening in the Pneumonia Order Sets***

On August 19, 2015, Staph aureus Surveillance Screen went live in the CAP and HCAP order sets. Data has shown that nares screens for Staph aureus are very useful in stratifying empiric therapy. The negative predictive value of a negative screen is very high, which effectively rules out Staph aureus as the cause of pneumonia and allows de-escalation of empiric antibiotic therapy. The screen will detect and report the presence of both MRSA and MSSA; the results are usually available the following day. The test uses a nares specimen, collected using the eSwab, which is available on the floors.



Microbiology
India Ink Test Discontinued

In September, the India Ink test will be discontinued. The increased sensitivity of the Cryptococcal antigen test, when coupled with the rapid turnaround of the immunochromatographic format, has led to Cryptococcal antigen being the test of choice for diagnosis of cryptococcal meningitis. Although the sensitivity of the India Ink test may be as high as 80% in HIV+ patients, it is as low as 50% in other patient populations. The Cryptococcal antigen test has an overall sensitivity of greater than 90% with comparable specificity. The utilization of both tests was reviewed and in a vast majority of cases, both tests were being ordered. Based on our review of our data and that in the literature, the decision was made to discontinue the India Ink test. Any orders of India Ink will be directed to the antigen test.

Patient Safety

CSF Order Sets in EPIC

As a recent patient safety initiative, and in collaboration with Radiology, Lab and EPIC we have come up with Ambulatory and IP CSF orders sets that must be utilized if a Lumbar collection is requested. This order set will require either acknowledgement that “No Testing is Required” or if testing is requested, will open up into an order set with all available CSF test codes. We believe that this will prevent errors in missed or unclear testing and thus prevent unnecessary recollections.

If you have any questions regarding CSF order sets, please contact Lab Customer Service 585-LABS.

EPIC Ambulatory Lab Orders
Placing Orders for Draw site collection

Laboratory Outreach draw sites recently went live with Epic registration and billing. One issue that has been identified is the status of the orders being placed in the clinics and physician offices. The order status for the test needs to be **FUTURE** status. All labs need to be ordered as **FUTURE** so that the appropriate billing can occur for that encounter. Many providers are selecting Normal and when Normal is selected it will post the charges on the wrong account and insurance could deny resulting in an unexpected bill for the patient.

If you have any questions regarding orders placed for outpatient or clinic patients who will be utilizing lab draw sites, please contact lab customer service at 585-LABS.