HML Update

Fall 2008

“Keeping Our Clients Informed”
Questions or Comments:
Call 651-232-3500

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Panel Changes
Due to low volumes of the Lipoprotein A test, we will be referring it to Mayo Medical Laboratory effective October 1st, 2008.

Panel Name: Lipoprotein A
Panel Code: LPA
CPT Code: 83695
Submit: 1 mL serum FROZEN within 8 hours in a separate tube
Test Performed at: Mayo Medical Laboratory
List Price: $24.65

New Panels
Panel Name: Cortisol, Serum
Panel Code: CTL
CPT Code: 82533
Submit: 1 mL serum REFRIGERATED
Test Performed at: HealthEast Medical Laboratory
List Price: $58.05
Note: This new panel replaces the Cortisol AM (CTA) and Cortisol PM (CTP) panels. The interpretive information will indicate time of day range differences. CTA and CTP are no longer orderable.

Panel Name: Cytochrome P450 Tamoxifen Therapy
Panel Code: 2TX
CPT Code: 83892, 83896 x’s 14, 83900, 83912, and a DNA extraction (83890) once per date of service
Submit: 4 mL whole blood (EDTA lavender)
ROOM TEMPERATURE
Unacceptable: Clotted specimen, patient transfused in the last 4-6 weeks or patient has received bone marrow or liver transplant
Test Performed at: Mayo Medical Laboratory
List Price: $269.40 + $150 for DNA extraction if applicable
Panel Name: Cytochrome P450 2C19  
Panel Code: 2C1  
CPT Code: 83892, 83896 x's7, 83900, 83912, and DNA extraction (83890) once per date of service  
Submit: 4 mL whole blood (EDTA lavender)  
ROOM TEMPERATURE  
Unacceptable: Clotted specimen, patient transfused in the last 4-6 weeks or patient has received bone marrow or liver transplant.  
Test Performed at: Mayo Medical Laboratory  
List Price: $269.40 + $150 for DNA extraction if applicable

Vancomycin Level Guidelines

The following interpretive information is being added to our Vancomycin results. These are guidelines established by the HealthEast Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee relative to different types of infections.

**Meningitis**
Toxic peak > 80 mcg/ml  
Goal trough = 15-20 mcg/ml  
Toxic trough > 25 mcg/ml

**Pneumonia, Osteomyelitis, Endocarditis**
Goal trough = 15-20 mcg/ml  
Toxic trough > 25 mcg/ml

**All other infections**
Goal trough = 10-15 mcg/ml  
Toxic trough > 25 mcg/ml

MEDICARE UPDATES

Advanced Beneficiary Notice:
As announced in our Summer newsletter, CMS has implemented a new version of the Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) (CMS-R-131). At the end of August, CMS announced a delay in the required implementation for the new form to March 1, 2009. However, HML has moved forward in making the change to the new version. Please note that the following items are required for the ABN to be valid:
- Must have the cost estimate section filled out
- Must include the patient’s signature or signature of their authorized representative

Lipid Testing Frequency Limits:
This was published by CMS in response to errors noted in medical review related to coverage and frequency of Lipid Testing per National Coverage Determination (NCD) 190.23. Routine screening and prophylactic testing for lipid disorder is not covered by Medicare. While lipid screening may be medically appropriate, by statute Medicare does not pay for it. Lipid testing in asymptomatic individuals is considered to be screening regardless of the presence of other risk factors such as family history, tobacco use, etc.

Monitoring of diagnosed hyperlipidemia and borderline hyperlipidemia: Periodic monitoring of anti-lipid dietary or pharmacologic therapy is allowed within the following guidelines. Note that many of the guidelines do not allow a complete lipid panel:

(continued)
Borderline high total or LDL cholesterol levels: Lipid panel is reasonable on an annual basis.

Evaluation of non-specific chronic abnormalities of the liver (for example, elevations of transaminase, alkaline phosphatase, abnormal imaging studies, etc.): lipid panel would generally not be indicated more than twice per year.

First year of anti-lipid dietary or pharmacologic therapy:

- One component of the panel or a measured LDL may be reasonable up to 6 times the first year.
- When documentation supports marked elevations or changes to anti-lipid therapy due to inadequate initial patient response to dietary or pharmacologic therapy, more frequent total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triglyceride testing may be indicated.

- After treatment goals are established: LDL cholesterol or total cholesterol may be measured three times yearly.
- Long-term anti-lipid dietary or pharmacologic therapy: Lipid panel is reasonable on an annual basis.

Source: National Coverage Determination (NCD) 190.23

**ALBUMIN TESTING CHANGE**

Effective October 15, 2008 HealthEast Laboratories will implement a change in methodology for serum albumin testing.

Because of feedback from HealthEast physicians about increases in patient albumin values seen after our laboratory made a change in testing platforms in February 2008, we have made a decision to switch from bromcresol green to bromcresol purple. HealthEast Chemistry Laboratory staff performed comparison studies between the two albumin methods, which included patients on hemodialysis. There was a negligible difference in albumin recovery for hemodialysis patients with the bromcresol purple method as compared to our current bromcresol green method.

After implementation of the new methodology on 10/15/2008, albumin values for all patients should return closer to values as reported prior to February 2008.

Thank you for communicating your concerns about laboratory results for your patients so we can investigate and address any concerns. Our goal is to provide you with high-quality, reliable results.

**TOTAL BILIRUBIN STANDARDIZATION**

Effective October 15, 2008 HealthEast Laboratories will implement a change in the standard set-point that will lower total bilirubin results up to 20%. Abbott Laboratories recently completed an investigation that determined the matrix used in the value assignment of their calibrator was sensitive to the Diazo method. This matrix sensitivity created a positive bias.

Abbott initiated this investigation because customers, including HealthEast Medical Laboratory, reported higher than expected results on proficiency samples, quality control recovery, and patient results. HealthEast Laboratories was alerted to this increase in patient total bilirubin values because of feedback from physicians.

Standard value assignments used from February 2008 until September 2008 have the potential to generate biased elevated patient total bilirubin results. New calibrator set points provided by Abbott and put into use on October 15, 2008 at HealthEast Laboratories will correct this positive bias. Correlation testing performed has indicated that the HealthEast reference range of 0.0 to 1.0 mg/dL for adults will not need adjustment.

**BILIRUBIN CRITICAL VALUE CHANGE**

In response to inquiries from physicians concerning critical call values for total bilirubin on neonates, HealthEast laboratories reviewed our current policies. To follow recommendations established in this investigation, total bilirubin critical call values will be updated as follows:

- < 1 day old (24 hours) 12 mg/dL
- >24 hours and <48 hours 15 mg/dL
- > 48 hours 18 mg/dL
RHEUMATOID FACTOR TESTING

Starting October 15, 2008 the Rheumatoid Factor Assay will be performed on the Abbott Architect 8200 which uses a latex enhanced immuno-turbidimetric assay. The current methodology is Beckman-Coulter nephelometric measurement performed on the Array 360. The correlation for this change shows a slight negative bias. It is recommended to re-baseline the RF results for those patients being monitored for treatment. The quantitative reference range remains the same at <30 IU/ml.

The Rheumatoid Factor Cascade (RAQ) will be discontinued and we will be performing Rheumatoid Factor, Quantitative, (RQT) on all RF orders.

CONSULTANT’S CORNER

HML Supply Order Forms

Look for the newly revised HML supply order forms to appear in your clinic soon.

What is new, you ask?
- More complete section for filling in your Clinic name. Please be as specific as possible!
- Larger font – easier on your eyes!
- More specific packaging information – e.g., a package contains this many items!
- Cleaner form - discontinued or seldom used items have been removed!

With these new forms, please take the time to review your HML Laboratory supply usage and update your standing order by indicating “New Standing Order” on the new form the first time that you send it in.

Suggestions from HML regarding supplies:
- HML can only supply items that will be returned to HML for testing.
- Please do not order an entire package if you only need a few items. Instead, be specific about the number of items you need.
- Only order supplies that you can use up in a reasonable amount of time.
- Please do not let supplies outdate on your shelves; instead, return them to HML with enough time allowed for them to used internally.
- Please do not over-stock supplies as they may get misplaced and expire before they are used.
- Please request non-standing order supplies early enough to allow 10 days for your supply order to be filled. If items are needed before 10 days, order them as STAT or ASAP. If items are needed the next day, please call HML Customer Service.

As always, please let HML know if you need assistance or more information regarding the newly revised HML Supply Order Form.

Dear Lead Physician/ NP:

Can your patient benefit from an ImmunoCAP® Specific IgE blood test?

The National Institutes of Health NAEPP Expert Panel Report recommends ImmunoCAP® Specific IgE blood tests to primary care physicians to pinpoint allergic etiology as well as identify specific allergic triggers. This new tool will help physicians to better guide the management of asthma patients and their disease progression.

HealthEast Medical Laboratory has formed an educational partnership with ImmunoCAP® to address educational needs - directly with our physicians. ImmunoCAP® Clinical Consultants will be available to conduct informational seminars over lunch/breakfast in all HealthEast Clinic locations. A representative from HealthEast or ImmunoCAP® will be contacting you to schedule a lunch/breakfast program in your practice.

We recognize that many of your practices already have full calendars, please consider opening up a time to accommodate this educational initiative. We anticipate that this targeted supplemental education will enhance understanding related to the use of this new diagnostic tool. We believe that you will find this educational session a great benefit to you and your patients.

We appreciate your time and interest. If you have a particular date open for this education offering, please contact Eric Razskazoff with HML at ecrazskazoff@healtheast.org or an ImmunoCAP Clinical Sales Consultants directly: Kristen Purtell at (612) 327-3447 or Lisa Meyer at (612) 414-4564.

In partnership,

Eric Razskazoff
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HealthEast Medical Laboratory
HealthEast Care System
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Jane Eshleman, long-time Billing, Coding, and Compliance Specialist, retired this past September. Karen Anderson has been in transition to fill Jane’s very large shoes!

Karen has over 25 years of laboratory, customer service, and billing experience. She was hired by HealthEast in September 2004 as a claims specialist for HealthEast Medical Laboratory and eventually transitioned into a Client Account Support Associate position for the HML sales team in 2006. Karen brings a proven track record and experience into her new role.

**EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009**

*“Basic Phlebotomy Techniques”*
Auditorium B&C, Woodwinds Hospital
Noon - 4:00 PM
Eric Starbuck, Instructor

This seminar / skills training session is designed to provide a basic understanding of clinical laboratory sample requirements, NCCLS Standards regarding venous site selection, equipment, sampling methods, sample handling and transport, and related patient care requirements. Participants will have the opportunity to practice skills on model sampling arms and may choose to participate in a supervised phlebotomy practice with other program participants.

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

*“Pediatric Phlebotomy”*
Carondolet Room, St. Joseph’s Hospital
8:30 - 11:30 AM
Kathy Miller, Instructor

This seminar/skills training session is designed to provide a basic understanding of sample requirements, CLSI standards regarding capillary and venous site selection, equipment, sampling methods, sample handling and transport, and related patient care requirements.
EDUCATION

Registration Form

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Name of Seminar: “Basic Phlebotomy” or “Pediatric Phlebotomy”

CMA       LPN       MLT       MT       RN       Other: _____________________________

Place of Employment and Address: ___________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Daytime Phone (including area code): _________________________________________________

e-mail address (to receive a confirmation) _____________________________

No charge to current HML Clients
$20.00 Non-Client
Make check payable to HealthEast Medical Laboratory.

Register online at www.healtheast.org/hml or return to:

Linda Phillips
HealthEast Medical Laboratory
69 West Exchange Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Please contact Linda Phillips at 651-232-3190 or lphillips@healtheast.org if you have questions.

www.healtheast.org/hml