

ADD ON TESTING

Physicians Laboratory has validated the stability of the following analytes up to **five (5) days** following collection:

Test #	Name
# 112	Albumin
# 116	Alkaline Phosphate
# 167	ALT (SGPT)
# 118	Amylase
# 166	AST (SGOT)
# 122	BUN
# 123	Calcium
# 126	Chloride
# 130	CK
# 131	Creatinine
# 136	GGTP (GGT)
# 27	Glucose, fasting
# 137	Glucose, random
# 157	Phosphorus
# 161	Potassium
# 168	Sodium
# 17	Total Bilirubin
# 163	Total Protein
# 171	Uric Acid

Note: Test # 454 CO2 stability is 24 hrs.

Test # 152 LDH stability is 48 hrs.

The following panels can be added within 5 days; however, if CO2 and/or LDH are part of the panel, those tests would be deleted.

#105	Electrolyte Panel
#110	Metabolic Panel
#1507	CMP I
#1508	CMP II
#1509	CMP III
#1510	CMP IV
#1511	Health Fitness I
#1512	Health Fitness II
#1513	General Health I
#1514	General Health II
#1515	General Health II & PSA
#1569	Renal Function Panel

Providing there is an adequate quantity of specimen for testing, the above tests or panels can be added by contacting our Client Services Department within 5 days of the draw date.

Questions: Contact Jan Nelson
Chemistry Supervisor

SPECIMEN LABELING

We have noticed a significant increase in unlabeled or labeling discrepancies with clinical specimens. This causes testing to be delayed while discrepancies are resolved. We would appreciate your compliance with the following:

1. Please use the patient's full, legal name on the requisition.

Do not use nicknames.

2. The patient's identification on the specimen **must match** the patient's identification on the requisition.
3. The complete date of birth must be on the requisition.
4. The first and last name of the requesting physician must be present.
5. If applicable, the source of the specimen must be indicated on the requisition.

Questions: Contact Lisa Hart
Processing Coordinator

PROPER ORDERING OF THROAT SPECIMENS FOR MICROBIOLOGY

Current guidelines recommend culturing **only beta hemolytic streptococcus** from throat specimens. Beta hemolytic strep. can result in serious secondary infection, so rapid testing is important.

Test #688 Beta Strep Culture, Throat provides better turnaround time and is cost effective for the patient. The Beta Strep Culture is reported within 18-24 hrs.

The only time Test #601 Culture, Throat should be ordered is when a clinical situation warrants special considerations (such as a bacterial pathogen carrier state or the presence of yeast). When the physician requests this test, the organism or the condition needs to be listed on the requisition. Test #601 Culture, Throat is reported within 48 hrs.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert
Microbiology Supervisor

INSULIN TESTING

****Effective December, 2005****

The following tests will be performed in Special Chemistry at Physicians Laboratory in Omaha.

Test	Normal Range
#937 Insulin, random	No reference range established
#9144 Insulin, fasting	4-27 uIU/mL
#9145 Insulin, 30 mins	20-112 uIU/mL
#9146 Insulin, 60 mins	29-88 uIU/mL
#9147 Insulin, 90 mins	26-84 uIU/mL
#9148 Insulin, 120 mins	22-79 uIU/mL
Specimen:	1 mL serum, frozen
CPT code:	83525
Cost:	\$22.50
Questions:	Contact Jan Nelson Chemistry Supervisor

CHANGES IN STOOL COLLECTION

Microbiology section is requiring all stool specimens be submitted in the 3 vial Para-pak collection system for any Microbiology test. The 3 vial Para-pak can be obtained by contacting our Supply Dept.

Allocation of the stool specimen in the Para-pak is as follows:

1. Place a portion of the stool in the white-capped vial to the fill line.
2. Place a portion of the stool in the orange-capped vial until the liquid rises to the fill line.

Note: The addition of the orange-capped vial is important for the detection of the giardia/crypto, shiga toxin assay, and enteric pathogens in cultures.

3. Place a portion of the stool in the green-capped vial to the fill line.

Label all vials with the patient's name and refrigerate.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert
Microbiology Supervisor

TEST #699 **GIARDIA/CRYPTOSPORIDIUM**

Since the introduction of this test, our lab has seen an increase in positive cryptosporidium test results. This reflects the greater sensitivity and specificity of this antigen test. Another advantage of this test is that it provides a faster turnaround time since only one stool specimen is required as opposed to three separate specimens for the complete O&P (Ova and Parasite), test #636.

Collect the stool specimen in the 3 vial Para-pak. (See instructions above)

Notes: Specimens will be held for 4 days to allow ordering of a Complete O&P examination (test #636), if needed.

If a Complete O&P Examination (test #636) is requested, a travel history or reason for the request MUST accompany the order.

Questions: Contact Shari Talbert
Microbiology Supervisor

PRE-OP PT AND/OR PTTs FOR **MEDICARE PATIENTS**

Medicare will not pay for pre-op PT and/or PTTs unless there is a medical reason, i.e. patient on coumadin therapy or has a congenital condition. If PT and/or PTT are submitted with either diagnosis code V72.83 or V72.84, the patient needs to sign a waiver.

Questions: Contact Bev Ruch
Marketing Representative

MEET OMAHA "CLIENT SERVICES"

Betsy is the Supervisor and a Medical Technologist. She has 20+ years experience working in Chemistry at area hospitals. Before coming to Physicians Lab. 2 years ago, she worked with laboratories installing new computer equipment.

Claudia is the "voice of Physicians Lab". She is the receptionist and answers over 9000 phone calls a month. She has been with us for 6 years.

Marilyn is a Medical Technologist. After several years of "retirement" to raise her family, she came to Client Services 8 ½ years ago.

Michael began his medical career as a corpsman in the Navy. He has worked in processing and phlebotomy at various laboratories, and he has been with us for 7 ½ years.

Josh is the newest member of the Client Service staff. Before coming to Client Services 5 months ago, he worked as a phlebotomist in a hospital setting.

Mike started his career in the military. After the Navy, he worked as a phlebotomist in hospitals before coming to us 5 years ago. Mike has accepted another position and will be leaving us Dec. 17. We will miss him and wish him well.

Bryan works the evening shift and has been with Physicians Lab. for 7 years. He has worked in specimen processing and phlebotomy at area hospitals.

Marshann is one of the traveling phlebotomists who draws at homes and nursing facilities. She has been with us for 8 years.

Jennifer is also a traveling phlebotomist. She is certified as a medical assistant and EMT. She has been with Physicians Lab. for 1½ years.

Juanita is the newest member of the traveling phlebotomy team. Before coming here 1 year ago, she gained experience in doctor's offices and other institutions.

Jeanine is the phlebotomist most often seen at the Doctor's Building. She is a certified medical assistant and has been with Physicians Lab. for 5 years.

THANK YOU

Physicians Laboratory Services, Inc. thanks you for choosing PLS as your reference laboratory. We value you as a client and will continue to strive to provide the most accurate and precise testing in a timely and cost efficient manner.

A special thank you is extended to you for completing our 2005 Client Survey. From this information, we can constructively strive to meet your needs, improve our service, and provide a more efficient and productive laboratory. We value your comments and suggestions.

We look forward to new and exciting developments for our laboratory in 2006.

All of the employees at Physicians Laboratory Services, Inc. wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season!!