

THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Summer 2008

Quarterly Newsletter on MJH website

This newsletter is from the Laboratory and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It contains important information and news briefs concerning laboratory services. In addition to normal distribution, each issue will be posted at www.marthajefferson.org/healthcare/laboratory. Go to www.marthajefferson.org on the Healthcare Professionals menu and select Laboratory Medicine.

New ABN required by CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require the use of a new version of the Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) by **September 1, 2008**. A full page ABN has been created and will be supplied to the offices. Due to additional requirements, the ABN became too lengthy to include on the Cytology GYN requisitions. As of Sept. 1, all Pap specimens on Medicare patients **MUST** be accompanied by a completed Cytology GYN requisition **AND** an ABN. Please discard all older Cytology requisitions and request the new requisitions along with the new full page ABN forms by August 22, 2008 if you have not already done so.

Anthem Healthkeepers– Reference Testing Change

MJH was notified effective June 1, 2008 that Anthem BCBS will discontinue their exclusive agreement for reference lab services from MJH Laboratory for their HMO business **ONLY**. Martha Jefferson has had a contract for this service with Anthem for approximately 13 years and over this period of time Anthem has moved toward a nationwide agreement with Labcorp. We are the last hospital in Virginia that they have transitioned to Labcorp with all other hospital based reference labs transitioned to LabCorp in 2000 or before. Please make note of some specific points below.

- The change is **ONLY** for the “Virginia Healthkeepers” HMO products: Healthkeepers Inc., Peninsula Health Care Inc., Priority Health Care Inc., and the Medicaid Healthkeepers Plus plan.
- MJH lab continues as a network-participating provider for outpatient testing under Anthem’s PAR/PPO plans such as KeyCare, BlueCare, and other Anthem plans.
- This change is **ONLY** for Anthem’s HMO reference lab program, there are no changes regarding HMO member’s laboratory request for inpatient stays, same day surgery, ER Visits, or testing related to outpatient procedures.
- The change includes outpatient reference testing in both clinical and anatomical pathology laboratory.

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory regrets that we will no longer be serving these HMO members and will work with you to make this transition as seamless as possible. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Dotson (434-982-7175), Daryn Norton (434-982-7183), or Noel Jorgensen (434-244-5525).

Change In CO2 Critical Value

Any patient that is less than 18 years old and CO2 <15 is now critical. The critical value for patients that are greater than 18 years old is still CO2 <10. With any questions, please call chemistry at 982-7176.

Charlottesville Pathology and MJH Laboratory Remain Network Providers for United Healthcare

UHC's recent announcement that LabOne was purchased by Quest Diagnostics and will not participate in the UHC network, DOES NOT AFFECT Charlottesville Pathology's and Martha Jefferson Laboratory's participation status.

REMINDER

In the CC box on the request form, please include first name, last name, and phone number for physicians that need to receive a copy of the report.

Cytology Specimens *OTHER* Than Paps

For practitioners who routinely submit Pap specimens to MJH Cytology, there may be an occasional need to submit other Cytology specimens. Following are guidelines for doing so:

Paperwork:

Specimens *other* than Pap tests should be submitted with the MJH Surgical Pathology/Cytology Consultation form, to distinguish them from Pap tests. When completing this form it is very important to document specific specimen type and source in addition to patient demographics, insurance information, and date of collection. For example, with breast specimens is it nipple discharge, a fine needle aspiration, etc, and from which breast and where on that breast.

Specimen Slides:

Slides that are prepared should be identified as air-dried or alcohol fixed to insure proper handling/staining in the lab. All materials submitted (each slide, specimen container) should be labeled with the patient's full name and date of birth and if possible specimen source. Urines, cyst fluids, and other fluid specimens for Cytology should be kept refrigerated. If there are any questions regarding handling or submitting specimens to Cytology, please call the laboratory (434-982-7775), Cytology Section Leader Ann Lersch (434-244-5903), or Cytology director Dr. Laura Spinelli (434-982-7246) for assistance.

New Chemistry Tests

The Chemistry Department at Martha Jefferson Laboratory Services recently added some new tests to its menu. These tests can be ordered on our regular lab requisitions by handwriting it on the form. Any questions can be directed to the main laboratory at 982-7170.

- Anti-TPO (thyroid peroxidase antibodies)
- Anti-TG (thyroglobulin antibodies)
- FT3 (free T3)
- T3 (total T3)
- IgE
- Ca19-9
- SHBG (Sex hormone binding globulin)
- C-Peptide

A Note About Nicknames

Please do not use nicknames for patients when filling out the requisitions and labeling the specimen containers. The name on the requisition and the label on the container must match in order to be processed in the laboratory.

Important Telephone Numbers

- Need lab results from the Clinical Lab call 982-7170 or fax 982-7164.
- Outreach Department, call 982-7183
- Need lab results from the Anatomic Pathology Lab 982-7955 or fax 982-7944.
- AP Client Services Representative, Noel Jorgensen, at 244-5525

**The next Nanogram newsletter will be Fall 2008
distributed on October 9, 2008.**