New Rapid Detection Method of Influenza A and B

A new rapid method for detecting influenza A and B is in place this season. It’s used by St. Luke’s Hospital lab and all of St. Luke’s clinic labs. This change provides a rapid test with better sensitivity than the method used last season.

The “BD Veritor System for Rapid Detection of Flu A+B” is a rapid chromatographic immunoassay for the direct and qualitative detection of influenza A and B from nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens. This test involves preparation of the NP specimen, adding the specimen to a sample testing device and, after a 10 minute incubation period, placing the testing device into a reader. Use of the reader takes away the uncertainty of subjective interpretation by a manual visual method.

Questions about this method may be directed to Deb Fischer, MT, Technical Specialist-Microbiology, at 218-249-5319.

Screening Tests and Medicare Payments

Tests for screening purposes performed in the absence of signs, symptoms, complaints or personal history of disease or injury, and those not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury, are not covered, except as explicitly authorized by statute.

A claim for a test for which there is a national coverage or local coverage determination will be denied if it is submitted without an ICD-9 code listed, as covered in the policy.

Claims for annual PSA screening must include the following diagnosis code:
- V76.44 Special screening for malignant neoplasms, prostate

Claims for lipid screening must include one of the following diagnosis codes:
- V84.0 Special screening for ischemic heart disease
- V81.1 Special screening for hypertension
- V81.2 Special screening for other and unspecified cardiovascular conditions.

St. Luke’s Performs HPV 16/18 Genotyping

We are pleased to announce that human papillomavirus genotyping for subtypes 16/18 (HPV 16/18) is performed at St. Luke’s hospital laboratory using Cervista™ HPV 16/18. This new methodology is a molecular assay that uses signal DNA amplification technology (Invader Chemistry) as adjunct to a positive result during HPV HR testing. This testing may be ordered reflexively or as an add-on test but can only be performed on samples positive for HPV HR. HPV 16/18 detects the presence of the oncogenic high-risk HPV subtypes, which are found in 70 percent of cervical cancer.

Continued on back…
**HPV 16/18 Genotyping Continued…**

The test…

- is to be used adjunctively with the Cervista® HPV HR test in patients with atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS) cervical cytology results, to assess the presence or absence of high-risk HPV types 16 and 18.
- is to be used in women 30 years and older.
- can be used adjunctively with HPV HR in combination with cervical cytology to assess the presence or absence of high-risk HPV types 16 and 18. This information, together with the physician’s assessment of cytology history, other risk factors and professional guidelines, may be used to guide patient management.
- is performed using the original sample in which positive results were obtained for HPV HR, thus, eliminating the need for additional specimen collection.
- may be ordered for up to 10 weeks post-collection

To request this test, answer the question within the PAP smear or HPV High Risk test, reflex to HPV 16/18 as Y. Or, call St. Luke’s Laboratory Cytology department at 218-249-5315.

Questions about this test may be directed to Rome Deming, Cytology Technical Specialist, at 218-249-5237.

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**Upcoming Addition to Test Menu**

Serum protein electrophoresis and immunofixation will be added to St. Luke’s laboratory test menu in the near future. Capillary electrophoresis (CE), the technique of performing electrophoresis in buffer-filled, narrow-bore capillaries, will be employed. This methodology is a more ‘Lean’ process than the use of conventional agarose gel. Bringing this test in-house provides physicians more timely information. Watch for the *New Test Announcement* to be distributed prior to the ‘go-live’ date.

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**LABORATORY MEDICAL DIRECTORS**

- **Clinical, Anatomic Pathology & Hematology Medical Director**  
  S.J. Eastep, MD, (218) 249-3092
- **Clinical Chemistry Medical Director**  
  K. Baer, MD (218) 249-5751
- **Microbiology Medical Director**  
  K. Warren, MD (218) 249-6914
- **Transfusion Services Medical Director**  
  J. Steinhauer (218) 249-5749
- **Cytopathology Medical Director**  
  S. Lundeen, MD (218) 249-6310

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**LABORATORY ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

- **Administrative Director**  
  J. Elton Turbes, MLS (ASCP), MA, 218-249-5299
- **Outreach Manager**  
  S. Bachinski, MLS (ASCP), MA, 218-249-2445
- **Operations Manager**  
  J. Viergutz, MT (ASCP), 218-249-5724
- **IT Specialist**  
  S. Johnson, MLT (ASCP), 218-249-5429
- **Laboratory Services Coordinators**  
  K. Kloss, MT (ASCP), 218-249-5339  
  K. Syria 218-249-2578