# Test Bulletin

ACL Laboratories
Every Sample is a Life™

February 2018

## Revised Parathyroid Hormone Assay

**Effective Monday, February 19, 2018,** ACL Laboratories will implement a revised method for parathyroid hormone (PTH) testing. This method is used for both intact PTH (Test Order Code INTAC) and intraoperative PTH (Test Order Code PTHIO). See below for reference range changes for intact PTH.

| Test Order Code | Test Description | Current Reference Range | New Reference Range |
|---|---|---|---|
| INTAC | Intact PTH | 14-72 pg/mL | 19-88 pg/mL |

**Note:** The revised method also requires a change in the specimen transport temperature to FROZEN. ACL's Directory of Services (DOS) will reflect this change.

For additional information regarding this test, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at www.acllaboratories.com/test-catalog/.

## Update: United Healthcare (UHC) adding the Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization Process

This is a follow up to ACL's communication in October 2017 regarding United Healthcare (UHC) adding the Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization Process. This new process went into effect on November 1, 2017 requiring clinicians to create an Optum ID at www.UHCprovider.com in order to submit a prior authorization for several genetic and molecular laboratory tests.

ACL Laboratories has received orders for over 90 laboratory tests for patients requiring a prior authorization but only 2 prior authorizations have been provided. As a courtesy, we have been holding these claims to allow clinicians to submit the prior authorization before submitting charges to United Healthcare. We will send a Request for Missing Information, via fax, to affected clients requesting the prior authorization. ACL has a statement from UHC that a prior authorization can be submitted after the test has been performed but ***before*** charges have been billed. As part of the UHC agreement, ACL is not able to bill the patient for these tests if there is no prior authorization. ACL **will bill** the clinician/client for these charges, if denied by UHC.

If you have ordered a test requiring prior authorization, please follow the UHC Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Prior Authorization process to ensure testing is approved and to avoid charges to your account. It is important you implement this workflow process in your office. UHC has released information that labs cannot request prior authorization on behalf of the provider. Further, UHC has recently announced they plan to extend their prior authorization process to include additional testing in April, 2018.

For questions regarding the UHC Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification/Prior Authorization Process, please contact UCH at www.UHCprovider.com or call 1.877.842.3210.

**Please note: Prior authorization is not limited to United Healthcare. Check with specific insurance providers regarding their prior authorization requirements.**

## C1q Complement Protein (COMC1Q)

**Effective immediately,** Cleveland Clinic Laboratories (CCL), the performing laboratory, has updated the specimen requirements for C1q Complement Protein (COMC1Q).

Specimen collection requirements are as follows:

| C1q Complement Protein (COMC1Q) | Former Specimen Collection Requirements | *Effectively Immediately* – New Specimen Collection Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| **Collect** | One gold gel 3.5 mL (also acceptable: plain red 4.0 mL) | One 3.0 mL whole blood lavender (EDTA) Separate plasma from cells within 2 hours of collection and transfer to CCL's standard aliquot tube and freeze immediately. Separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered. |
| **Transport** | 1.0 mL (min:0.5 mL) serum refrigerated | 1.0 mL (min: 0.1 mL) EDTA plasma frozen |
| **CRITICAL** | | **Specimen must be frozen** |
| **Unacceptable Conditions** | | Grossly hemolyzed, Hyperlipemic, ambient, serum samples, non-EDTA plasma samples |
| **Stability** | Ambient: 3 Weeks / Refrigerated: 3 Weeks / Frozen: 3 Weeks | Ambient: Unacceptable / Refrigerated: 48 Hours / Frozen: 1 Month |

## PTH Related Peptide (PTHPEP)

**Effective immediately,** Cleveland Clinic Laboratories (CCL), the performing laboratory, has updated the specimen requirements for PTH Related Peptide (PTHPEP).

Specimen collection requirements are as follows:

| PTH Related Peptide (PTHPEP) | Former Specimen Collection Requirements | *Effectively Immediately* – New Specimen Collection Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| **Collect** | One Lavender (EDTA) 3.0 mL<br>Collect in pre-chilled EDTA lavender top tube and place on ice after collection.<br>Separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered.<br>Collection may only be collected at a designated ACL hospital due to special processing requirements. Designated ACL Hospital locations are listed below.<br>IL – Hospital Sites (Christ, Condell, Good Samaritan, Good Shepherd, Illinois Masonic, Lutheran General, South Suburban)<br>WI – Hospital Sites (Bay Area, Baycare, Burlington, Grafton, Kenosha, Lakeland, Oshkosh, St. Lukes, Summit, West Allis PSC) | Protease Inhibitor Tube (PPACK; Phe-Pro-Arg-chloromethylketone). Protease Inhibitor tubes are available from ACL Laboratories Supply Department (ARUP # 49662 via CCL). A winged collection set must be used. Mix Well. Separate from cells within one hour of collection. Transfer 1.5 mL plasma to CCL's Standard Aliquot tube and freeze immediately. |
| **Transport** | 0.7 mL (min: 0.7 mL) plasma frozen | 1.5 mL (min: 0.7 mL) plasma frozen |
| **CRITICAL** | Specimen must be frozen. | Specimen must be frozen |
| **Unacceptable Conditions** | Non-Frozen specimens | Non-frozen specimens. Grossly hemolyzed specimens |
| **Stability** | Frozen: 90 Days | Frozen: 90 Days after separation from cells |

## Fungal Antibodies by CF, CSF (FABCSF)

**Effective immediately,** Fungal Antibodies by CF, CSF (FABCSF) has been discontinued by the performing laboratory. ACL is recommending ordering Fungal Antibodies with Reflex to Blastomyces dermatitidis Antibodies by Immunodiffusion, CSF (CCL Test Order Code FANCSF). This test should be ordered as a miscellaneous test.

Specimen collection requirements are as follows:

| Fungal Antibodies by CF, CSF (FABCSF) | Former Specimen Collection Requirements | *Effectively Immediately* – New Specimen Collection Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| **Collect** | One Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) | One Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) |
| **Transport** | 1.0 mL (min: 0.4 mL) CSF refrigerated | 1.0 mL (min: 0.4 mL) CSF refrigerated Separate samples must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered. |
| **Unacceptable Conditions** | | Body fluids other than cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), contaminated, hemolyzed, xanthochromic, or severely lipemic specimens |
| **Stability** | Ambient: 48 Hours / Refrigerated: 2 Weeks / Frozen: 1 Year avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles | Ambient: 48 Hours / Refrigerated: 2 Weeks / Frozen: 1 Year (Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles) |

## Neuron-Specific Enolase (NSE)

**Effective immediately,** Cleveland Clinic Laboratories (CCL), the performing laboratory, has updated the specimen requirements for Neuron-Specific Enolase (NSE).

Specimen collection requirements are as follows:

| Neuron-Specific Enolase (NSE) | Former Specimen Collection Requirements | *Effectively Immediately* – New Specimen Collection Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| **Collect** | One gold gel 3.5 mL (also acceptable: plain red 4.0 mL) | One plain red 4.0 mL |
| **Transport** | 0.5 mL (min: 0.3 mL) serum refrigerated | 1.0 mL (min: 0.5 mL) serum frozen. Allow specimen to clot completely at room temperature |
| **Unacceptable Conditions** | Frozen | Body fluids other than cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), contaminated, hemolyzed, xanthochromic, or severely lipemic specimens |
| **Stability** | Ambient: 1 Week / Refrigerated: 1 Week / Frozen: Unacceptable | Ambient: Unacceptable / Refrigerated: 24 Hours / Frozen: 1 Year (Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles) |

## Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP)

**Effective immediately,** Cleveland Clinic Laboratories (CCL), the performing laboratory, has updated the specimen requirements for Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP).

Specimen collection requirements are as follows:

| Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) | Former Specimen Collection Requirements | *Effectively Immediately* – New Specimen Collection Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| **Collect** | One lavender (EDTA) 3.0 mL<br><br>Place specimen on ice after collection. Separate plasma from cells ASAP and freeze. | Protease Inhibitor Tube (PPACK; Phe-Pro-Arg-chloromethylketone).<br><br>Protease Inhibitor tubes are available at ACL Storeroom (ARUP # 49662 via CCL).<br><br>A wing collection set must be used. Mix Well. Separate from cells within one hour of collection.<br><br>Transfer 1.0 mL plasma to CCL's Standard Aliquot tube and freeze immediately. |
| **Transport** | 1.0 mL (min: 0.6 mL) plasma frozen | 1.0 mL (min: 0.5 mL) plasma frozen. Separate samples must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered. |
| **Unacceptable Conditions** | | Grossly hemolyzed specimens |
| **Stability** | Ambient: Unacceptable / Refrigerated: Unacceptable / Frozen: 90 Days | Ambient: Unacceptable / Refrigerated: 72 Hours after separation from cells / Frozen: 90 Days after separation from cells |