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CHEMISTRY

Levetiracetam (keppra) testing on patients taking Bivaracetam

The Levetiracetam assay performed at Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) should not be ordered if the patient has taken Bivaracetam (Brivact) within the past 48 hours. Bivaracetam will cause falsely elevated results for levetiracetam (keppra) using the test performed at AHL.

If your patient has taken Bivaracetam (Brivact) within the past 48 hours, and levetiracetam levels are needed, a Miscellaneous Send Out (994/LAB994) for Levetiracetam, serum, Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) test code LEVE, should be ordered. Testing will be referred to MCL to be performed. The turnaround time for testing is two days.

HELP US HELP YOU

QuantifERON[®]-TB gold plus specimen collection

Since the transition from the QuantiFERON[®]-TB gold to the QuantiFERON[®]-TB gold plus, the Allina Health Laboratory Immunology department has noticed an increase in the number of Quantiferon collection tubes submitted with incorrect fill levels; some over-filled and some under-filled. Investigation into the trend has not identified an issue from any specific collection site, or specific tube lot numbers.

The QuantiFERON[®]-TB gold plus tubes do fill slowly. The black mark on each tube indicates the valid range of 0.8 – 1.2 mL of blood needed for testing. The blood volume in each tube needs to be within that mark to prevent erroneous results or a redraw for the patient.

The collection instructions for the QuantiFERON[®]-TB gold plus are included in our [test catalog](#). Please share this information with all staff at your site who may be collecting samples for this assay.

REFERRAL TESTING

Primary referral laboratory change

In an effort to preserve important resources and ensure the affordability of our services, Allina Health Laboratory (AHL) will transition our primary referral testing vendor from Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) to LabCorp during the second quarter of 2019. During the transition period, LabCorp and AHL Operations leaders will work closely together so as not to disrupt service to our customers.

AHL currently utilizes LabCorp for some of our referral testing. With LabCorp's mission to deliver world-class diagnostic solutions, their commitment to meet Allina Health's needs and their broad network of laboratories, we are confident that AHL will continue to receive high quality results for your patients.

This is an early notification for your awareness prior to beginning our work with LabCorp. We don't yet have details and timelines for the transition, but will communicate further as details become available.

Bordetella by rapid PCR collection change

When their current supply inventory is exhausted, Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) will no longer offer the Transwab Nasopharyngeal with Charcoal system (MCL supply T286) currently used to collect samples for Bordetella PCR testing.

At that time, any orders received for the Transwab Nasopharyngeal with Charcoal system (MCL T286) will be filled with the new suggested swab, a BBL mini-tip culture swab with liquid Stuart's media (MCL T515).



Minitip culture swab with liquid Stuart's media for Bordetella by rapid PCR

When supplies are exhausted, the AHL test catalog will be updated to reflect the new container, the Mini-tip charcoal transport swab—Bordetella testing will be removed from our supply catalog and the BBL mini-tip culture swab with liquid Stuart's media (MCL supply T515) will be added.

Please note that specimens collected with the Transwab NP with charcoal will still be acceptable for testing, as long as they have not expired, but will no longer be supplied by MCL.

Myocardial antibody assay obsolete

Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MCL) has shared that, effective February 4th, the Myocardial antibody assay (2197/86255.5) will become obsolete.

The recommended alternative test is the Striated muscle Ab assay, also referred to MCL.

Test Name:	Striated muscle Ab
Test Number:	3623
Collect:	1.5 mL serum - red
Peds Collect:	1.0 mL serum - red
Alternate Collect:	1.5 mL serum - SST
Container:	Mayo Screw Cap Transfer Vial
Processing:	Spin and separate
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated (preferred) - 28 days Frozen (OK) - 28 days Ambient: - 72 hours
Alternate Names:	Anti-Skeletal Muscle Antibodies Anti-Striated Antibody Muscle (Skeletal) Antibodies Myasthenia Gravis Antibodies Myoid Antibody Skeletal Muscle Antibodies Striationsal (Striated Muscle) Antibodies SMT LAB3623
Performing Lab:	Mayo Clinic Laboratories (STR/8746); R-MM
Days Set Up:	Mo - Sa
Expected TAT:	3 - 5 days
Ref. Ranges:	Titer: <1:120
Collection/	Transfer serum to a Mayo Screw Cap Transfer Vial prior transport
Processing Details:	
Method:	Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)
CPT Codes:	83520

Thank you for choosing Allina Health Laboratory -

We appreciate your business!