

Affirmation For The New Year

Laboratory Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital

Nationwide Children's Hospital Laboratory Services is one of the country's leading full-service pediatric reference laboratories, working closely with medical professionals throughout the United States and beyond. Our program is uniquely qualified to deliver impactful laboratory and pathology diagnostic services alongside expert pediatric consultation services. We are the largest children's hospital and research facility in the nation, currently performing more than 2.7 million pediatric laboratory tests annually for patients around the world. We are uniquely qualified to deliver the two things you want most from our reference laboratory – confidence and results.

As part of Nationwide Children's Hospital, we are more than a laboratory. We are creating the future of pediatric health care. Together, we are recognized for the quality of our results and ensure a continued commitment to you and your patients.

We know kids.

And we make it easy for the whole family. Our pediatric team is expertly trained to handle even the youngest patients, minimizing repeat sticks, stress and anxiety for the entire family. With more than 70 years of specialization, our laboratory offers a unique pediatric perspective. Our staff is dedicated exclusively to pediatrics. Completing more than 70,000 blood draws per year, our highly skilled staff can ensure a positive experience for your patient.

Smaller samples for small patients.

Pediatric testing can be different than adults and is even different for children at varying ages. Our instruments are specially geared for small patients and even smaller sample sizes, allowing for a less traumatic and safer experience. We are able to use small butterfly needles or finger sticks 100 percent of the time. Our unique microsampling instrumentation allows for more accurate results on children and babies, ultimately resulting in fewer patient sticks.

Pediatric reference ranges.

It takes special expertise to understand pediatric reference ranges. It takes even greater expertise to develop them. Our customized pediatric reference ranges ensure personalized diagnosis and treatment in every test we perform. Highly qualified medical staff and leading researchers in the field are available to answer questions and provide consults regarding any rare and difficult findings.

Highly accomplished and widely recognized.

Our staff is comprised of 21 full-time pathologists and doctoral scientists including nine American Board of Pathology certified pediatric pathologists. With more than \$31 Million in grants awarded to our pathology and laboratory medicine team annually, we are driving widely recognized research innovation and bettering the diagnosis and outcomes for patients across the globe.



LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

Canton Laboratory Service Center Moves to New Location



On November 21st the Canton Laboratory Service Center, previously located at 4846 Higbee Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio, moved to 4579 Everhard Road NW, Suite A, Canton, Ohio. The new facility is located in the Summa Professional Building on the north side of Everhard Road NW between the Everhard Professional Building and Belden Village Street NW. The laboratory staff will continue to provide you with pediatric services and expertise.

Laboratory hours will remain the same; Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

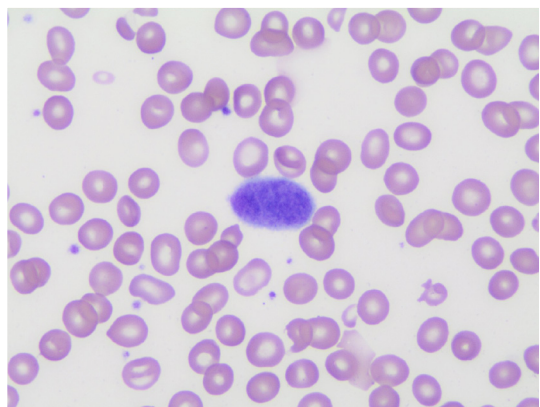
Image of the Week

“Image of the Week” is an educational exercise offered by the Pediatric Pathology Fellowship Program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Covering a diverse array of topics in the areas of Hematology, Oncology, Infectious Diseases, and General Pathology, each image, with a simple case history, is shared on a weekly basis with *Image of the Week* subscribers. Given up to 4 days to evaluate and contemplate each challenge, subscribers then submit their diagnosis or findings to the Editor. The actual diagnosis, often sprinkled with significant scientific and historical context is distributed and shared with all of those who subscribe. Those that submitted the correct diagnosis are recognized when the actual diagnosis or findings are announced.

We also seek your involvement and participation. If you have an image you would like share that would be make a good academic challenge for *Image of the Week*, please submit the image and the diagnosis or significant finding via e-mail to Dr. Samir Kahwash, Editor of *Image of the Week* at Samir.Kahwash@nationwidechildrens.org. Images will be selected based on quality and order they are received.

Individuals interested in being added to our regular *Image of the Week* recipient list may contact Edward Firgau, Co-editor of *Image of the Week* at Edward.Firgau@NationwideChildrens.org

Example of an Image of the Week.



What is the structure in the center of this photomicrograph taken from a stained peripheral blood smear of a child with Post-Operative bleeding ?

Image corner Answer: Giant Platelet

INFORMATION TO KNOW

Check Your Lab Supplies Expiration Dates!

As we begin a new year, we would like to take the opportunity to remind you to always check the expiration dates of your collection containers prior to collecting samples. Such containers include blood collection tubes, blood culture media, swabs and all transport media (e.g., O&P and Cary Blair media, viral M4 media, ThinPrep and Protocol 10% formalin media). It is good practice to check expiration dates of your collection supplies to avoid sample rejections, time taken to recollect the specimen, and delay of treatment by incorporating 'Supply Expiration Date' checks into your monthly check list.

Test Requisition Reminders

Make it a habit to review the printed requisition to make sure the Patient, Insurance, and Specimen Information is correct before sending a specimen to the laboratory. Missing patient or billing information for specimen registration often results in a phone call to your office staff requesting the missing information.

Clarification of terms in the Billing Information section of the Laboratory Service's requisition are as follows:

- **Guarantor** is the name legal guardian or parent of the patient (**the child cannot be the guarantor**)
- **Subscriber** is the person that is the carrier of the insurance for the patient

When sending specimens with the courier, please place the requisition in the outside pouch of the biohazard bag so that the barcode label is facing out. By doing this, the barcode is visible to the courier so that they can scan the code without effort. Scanning the barcode for each specimen helps us keep track of your patient's lab samples.

Cold Weather Specimen Storage Reminder

Now that winter has arrived, it is important that samples placed in a lockbox outdoors prior to transport to the laboratory be maintained at the appropriate temperature. If refrigerated samples are stored in the lockbox, a non-frozen cold pack stored at room temperature should be placed in the lockbox to maintain the samples at the refrigerated temperature. The cold pack **should not be frozen**, since you do not want refrigerated whole blood samples to freeze.

Many laboratory tests performed at Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services require adequate refrigeration of specimens. By following this lockbox practice, you will help insure the integrity of the samples and ultimately obtain reliable laboratory results.

ICD-10 Impacts the Diagnosis Information

As a reminder, we require accurate ICD-10 codes to aid with billing and other functions associated with laboratory testing. Everyone who is covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act must transition to ICD-10 coding. If claims are not filed with ICD-10 codes they will be rejected and not be paid. With the correct ICD-10 code, the bill will likely be paid without unnecessary delays. This will reduce re-work for your billing office and make for a better patient experience. If you are using ChildLink, ICD-10 codes will automatically be available for selection. If you are still using manual requisitions, the ICD-10 code will need to be entered in the diagnosis code box (or the ICD-9 field). If you do not know the ICD-10 code please write the diagnosis.

Reminder to Office Staff and Practitioners

For security purposes, it is important to notify Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575, as soon as an employee with ChildLink access (Laboratory Services online access center for tests) leaves your practice. Calling us as soon as possible ensures that previous employees are deactivated from ChildLink in a timely manner. Also, your Laboratory Services Account Representative would like to hear from you when new physicians or practitioners join your staff or if you have moved location(s). Having the most current information about your office demographics and practitioners, ensures prompt turnaround time of patient's lab reports.

TEST UPDATES

Lyme Disease Serology

On December 1, 2016, the lab discontinued the Lyme Disease Antibody (Total) Screen (test code LYDS).

This test will no longer be commercially available and is being replaced with the new test that will differentiate anti-*Borrelia burgdorferi* IgM and IgG. The new test name is Lyme Antibodies (test code LYMAB).

The report will include separate results for IgG and IgM:

- Negative results cannot rule-out infection.
If infection is still suspected, we recommend recollecting a convalescent serum in approximately 4 – 6 weeks for repeat testing.
- Positive results are presumptive.
All presumptive positives will continue to be sent out for confirmatory Western blot testing.

LYME ANTIBODIES		
Test Code	LYMAB	
Specimen Types & Volume	Whole blood – Red-top tube: No anticoagulant • with no gel • with gel	3 mL
Included Tests	Whole blood – Gold tube: Serum separator tube (SST) with Gel	3 mL
	Serum:	1 mL minimum
Transport / Stability	Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 5 days Frozen – 12 months	
Performed / Turnaround Time	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; TAT ≤ 1 week	
Comments	This is a qualitative test. Negative results cannot rule-out infection with <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> . Positive samples will be referred for confirmatory immunoblot testing	

Carbamazepine Availability Change

On December 19th Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services changed the availability of Carbamazepine testing. The current availability is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Due to low testing volumes we will be moving routine testing to 7a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Routine testing will be completed within 4 to 24 hours on dayshift only, 7 days a week. STAT priority testing will continue to be offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Current Process:

- Carbamazepine is offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

New Process:

- Routine priority Carbamazepine will be available between 7a.m. - 3:30 p.m., 7 days a week.
- STAT priority Carbamazepine will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have any questions about the discontinuation of the Lyme Disease Antibody Screen or the availability of Carbamazepine testing, please contact Nationwide Children's Laboratory Client Services at (800) 934-6575.



When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

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How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges
- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems



If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800)934-6575 or visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Laboratory-Services.

Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org and let us know!