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Laboratory Services

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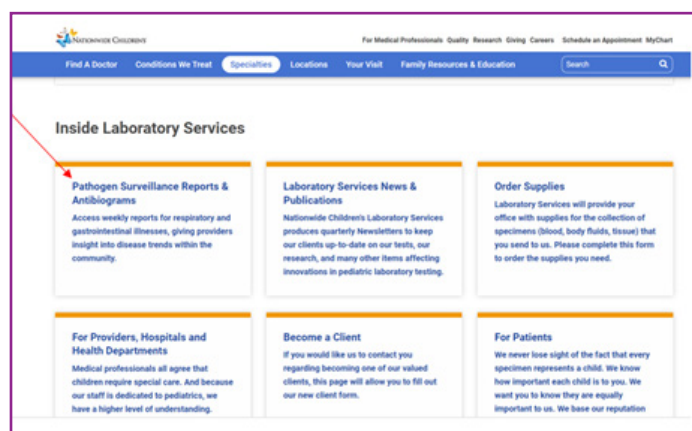


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Preparing for this Respiratory Illness Season

Weekly Respiratory Pathogens Report on the Web



Winter is fast approaching and respiratory illnesses are starting to rise. Laboratory Services would like to remind you of the great practice tool we offer you to track respiratory pathogens in the community. When you visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab make sure you check out the **Weekly Respiratory Pathogens Report**. You can obtain weekly respiratory positivity reports on 10 pathogens such as Coronavirus, RSV, Influenza, and Pertussis, and note respiratory illness trends in the Central Ohio area. Simply scroll to the bottom of the Laboratory Services homepage and click on the 'Pathogen Surveillance Reports & Antibiograms' link then click on 'Respiratory Pathogens' and then 'Open File' in the download box on the upper right side of the web page!

Be Prepared!

Respiratory season is almost here and Laboratory Services would like to encourage you to check your expiration dates and stock up on supplies for suspected respiratory illnesses that Laboratory Services can provide for you.

- M4 Viral Media Collection Kits
- COPAN Diagnostics - Dual swabs
- COPAN Diagnostics - Nylon Flocked Minitip, flexible plastic applicator swabs
- Fisherbrand Polyester-tipped applicator swab

Reducing Pre-analytical Errors in Partnership with Our NCH Central Processing and Accessioning Lab



The Nationwide Children's Hospital Central Processing and Accessioning Laboratory (CPA) is the place where all laboratory testing starts for NCH inpatient and outpatient samples. Among the busiest in the entire laboratory, this main campus lab section is tasked with making sure all patient samples are checked for compliance across several

criteria, including patient identification, sample stability, and clear, complete and accurate test orders. Without confirmation that all these parameters are correct, patient samples cannot move forward with actual testing, making CPA a crucial step in the diagnostic process. With this in mind, CPA leadership continues to work to find ways to reduce sample errors both inside the NCH laboratory and in concert with our outpatient community provider partners.

Current error reduction efforts, based on periodic data sampling, reveal that some of the most common pre-analytical errors include:

- Wrong test orders
- Missed testing
- Wrong date/time errors
- Incorrect ordering location errors
- Wrong patient orders.

In a top-to-bottom effort, working alongside the dedicated lab techs who process samples every day, CPA leaders have identified two key drivers to address these very solvable issues.

1. **Verifying accurate test collection, storage and transport**

CPA recommends the newly-updated NCH Laboratory Test Directory as the go-to online NCH resource for critical sample/testing info such as correct tube or container type, sample storage temperatures, sample stability, and collection and handling instructions. Earlier this year, NCH rolled out a major upgrade to the Test Directory with additional test synonyms and battery members, color photos of acceptable sample containers, and more user-friendly interactivity. Though accessing the Test Directory

online is likely the most time-sensitive approach, clients are still able to access NCH Laboratory Client Services via phone for more detailed information.

2. Ensuring the right test is ordered

It is essential that the correct test be ordered, whether through EMR interfaces between NCH and your practice or when using a paper test requisition. While clearly an EMR interface is the most accurate and efficient means of transmitting test orders, this modality may not fit all of our partners' needs or budgets. For these offices, our next best recommendation is to use NCH laboratory test requisitions where possible. Our requisitions can be customized by our Client Services department to accommodate your frequently ordered tests. Using our standardized requisitions is proven to reduce the possibility of error due to confusion or lack of clarity.

When client providers are required to use their own test requisitions, we encourage them to make sure that all practice location info is up to date and listed on their test requisition, ensuring results are routed to your office in an efficient manner. It is also beneficial to use the same test names and codes located on the requisition's testing menu, which can be found in the NCH Test Directory.

CPA has identified that the most common missed tests occur when test printing is small, condensed, illegible or in a less than ideal location. Clients can assist by formatting their requisitions to spread testing out to ensure visibility of marked tests, increase requisition font size when possible, and by circling or highlighting tests to call attention to priority testing.

Our Central Processing and Accessioning Laboratory is committed to partnering with our clients to improving processes to ensure accuracy and decrease turn-around-times. We will continue to share updates as we work through our quality improvement project to reduce pre-analytical error rates.

Temporary Substitution for Cary Blair



Due to a manufacturer backorder, our current green capped Cary Blair stool transport containers will be temporarily substituted with a yellow Cary Blair stool transport container. Clients can expect to see this new

product immediately when ordering. Both products are appropriate for any Cary Blair preservation (GI array testing, stool culture). The yellow cap Cary Blair can be used as usual until the traditional green cap supply is restored.

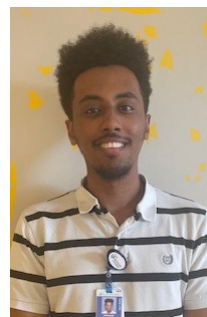
Test Update: Quantitative Factor XIII

Test Code: F13Q Live Date: 10/15/2024

On October 15, 2024, the normal range for Quantitative Factor XIII will be updated as shown in the chart below. This new range is based off an internal study of the NCH patient population.

Quantitative Factor XIII Reference Range Update	
Old Reference Range	New Reference Range
59 -181%	44-140%

Spotlight on Client Services:



Emmanuel has worked in Client Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital for almost 2 years now; November 21 of this year will mark his two-year anniversary hiring date! Emmanuel graduated from OSU in May of this year with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Pharmacy. Outside of work, Emmanuel enjoys reading,

writing songs, going to the gym, playing basketball, and spending time with his 3 siblings. When asked for a brief tip for clients, Emmanuel shared that it is important to ensure that our community practices are viewing the outpatient tab in the Test Directory, as sample processing and transport requirements often vary between the inpatient and outpatient tabs.



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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/Lab**. 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!

Lab Account Representatives are available via email to assist with any questions or concerns.

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