Raise Awareness for Cystic Fibrosis

To highlight the growing need for awareness about cystic fibrosis (CF), the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation recognizes May as National CF Awareness Month. During this time, and all year-round, volunteers and people with CF and their families unite to help shine a spotlight on what CF is and the progress being made toward a cure. Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services can help you offer the best care for your patients.

Consider these facts:

- Approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States have CF.
- More than 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene.
- CF used to be considered exclusively a childhood disease. Thanks to advancements in CF research and care, people with the disease are living into their 30s, 40s and beyond.
- The life expectancy for someone with CF has doubled in the last 30 years, but people still lose their lives to this devastating disease every day.

Visit https://www.cff.org/News/News-Archive/2015/May-Is-National-Cystic-Fibrosis-Awareness-Month/ to learn more about CF awareness.

The following Nationwide Children's Laboratory Service and Close To Home Centers are locations that meet the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation guidelines for sweat chloride collections:

- Dublin Close To Home Center - Laboratory
- East Broad Close To Home Center - Laboratory
- Lima Laboratory Service Center
- Mansfield Laboratory Service Center
- Springfield Close To Home Center - Laboratory
- Westerville Close To Home Center - Laboratory
- Zanesville Laboratory Service Center
- Outpatient (Orange) Lab – Main Campus

For more information regarding Cystic Fibrosis Screening at Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, please call Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 or visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.
INFORMATION TO KNOW

Collecting Specimens for Respiratory Infection Array Testing

There may be times when it is important to perform a more comprehensive and sensitive test for respiratory pathogens in the outpatient setting. The Respiratory Infection Array, is a real-time PCR assay that detects 8 viral and 4 bacterial targets.

When collecting specimens for Respiratory Infection Array testing, the private practice physician must collect a posterior nasopharynx specimen using a sterile flocked swab supplied in the M4 Collection Kit provided by Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services at the time of the office visit. Instructions on how to collect NP specimens are supplied in the M4 Collection Kits. Specimens collected from any other source other than the nasopharynx are not acceptable. In addition, NP swab collections cannot be collected by lab technologists at the Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Service Centers.

For more information regarding test availability, specimen requirements, or to order collection kits, call (800) 934-6575 or visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.

Summer is Just Around the Corner

With warm weather approaching, stool parasites and microbes are often prevalent with spoiled food, contaminated swimming pools, lakes and ponds. Laboratory Services would like to take the opportunity to remind you to stock up on your O&P and Cary-Blair media that we provide.

Laboratory Services offers multiplex molecular testing for gastrointestinal (GI) pathogens. The spectrum of pathogens that cause GI infections is quite broad and typically requires an assortment of classical detection methods (fecal examination, bacterial culture, and PCR testing) to identify the causative agent. Many of these classical methods suffer from variable specificity and sensitivity, and are often poorly utilized due to a lack of understanding of each method's intended use. Molecular testing is more sensitive and faster than conventional methods for detection of gastrointestinal pathogens.

The Gastrointestinal Infection Array tests for common gastrointestinal pathogens including 11 bacteria, 5 viruses, and 4 protozoa that cause infectious diarrhea. The GI Array is designed as a screening test for gastrointestinal infections where a rapid comprehensive answer is desired. It is meant to be ordered in place of conventional testing such as routine stool culture, ova and parasite examinations, and antigen testing.

For optimal GI Array testing, stool specimens should be collected in a Cary-Blair collection container with media, and transported to a Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Service Center within 24 hours at room temperature or 72 hours refrigerated. Testing is performed 24/7 with a turn-around time estimated at 8 hours of receipt.

National Recognition to Medical Laboratory Professionals

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 21–27, is a time of recognition for medical laboratory professionals and board-certified pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care. Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services’ commitment to delivering accurate quality results for a healthier tomorrow is reflected in this year’s theme: ‘Laboratory Professionals Get Results’.
Blood Exposures When Closing Microtainer Collection Tubes

According to Alex M. Brown, CSP, Injury Management & Research Safety Specialist, and member of the Employee Safety Team at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, there is an increase in blood and body fluid exposures; specifically splashes to the eyes and mouth when opening and closing blood collection tubes or working with open blood samples. The increased number of cases appears to be associated with the green top (lithium heparin) RAM-brand microtainer tubes. Safety huddles have revealed those collecting microtainer blood samples are usually holding the tube at eye level when they are snapping the lid closed, leading to the exposure.

Why this happens: The RAM microtainer has a fat, wide rim or “lip” that tends to catch and retain a drop of blood if the drop did not free-fall into the tube. (see fig. 1) This isn’t a defect with the tube, but the exposure is associated with how your office staff are handling the tube.

Suggested options on how to prevent splashing:
• Use eye protection
• Avoid touching the tube to the skin during collection – try to catch a free-falling drop (see fig. 2) and never scrape the tube on the skin.
• Cover the tube lid with gauze before snapping it shut. (see fig. 3)
• Do not snap the lid closed when holding it at eye level. Keep it away from your face and the patient.

Samples Submitted With Needles Will Not Be Accepted

Please do not send any specimen collected via syringe to the Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services with a needle attached. This includes aspirates of any type (i.e. synovial, aspiration biopsies, abscesses) as well as samples obtained via FNA (Fine needle aspiration). If one is received, testing will not be performed and you will receive a phone call informing you of the specimen rejection. Please refer to the Laboratory Guide to Services for proper container/tube type or call Laboratory Services for assistance at (800) 934-6575.
INFORMATION TO KNOW

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

Are You Submitting a Bacterial or Viral Culture?

To receive the most reliable result on your patient, please provide an accurate specimen description on the test requisition for every bacterial and viral culture which includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exact type of culture examples</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Exact body site or source examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wound, Abscess</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Greater left toe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Straight catheter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatophyte</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Nail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

Looking for unique way to celebrate lab week? Come to Nationwide Children’s Hospital for free CE credit, networking and tours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Hors d’oeuvres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sickle Cell Disease: Testing and Transfusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Meyer, DO, MPH – Associate Director, Transfusion Medicine Medical Director, Apheresis Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen K. Nicol, MD – Section Chief, Clinical Pathology Associate Medical Director; Director, Transfusion Medicine, POCT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.</td>
<td>The Skeleton in the Closet: Skeletal Dysplasia and Immunodeficiencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roshini Abraham, PhD – Associate Chief, Academic Affairs Director, Diagnostic Immunology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lab Tours (optional)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- Please confirm your registration by emailing Talent@NationwideChildrens.org with the following information by Thursday, April 18, 2019: Name, title, address, and phone number
- Parking will be available in the Orange Parking Garage located at 555 S. 18th Street. Children's employees will escort you from the parking garage to the event.
- Parking is free – vouchers will be dispersed at registration. More details will be given after you RSVP.
For questions and additional information, contact Consultant, Rebecca Reynolds, at Rebecca.Reynolds@nation-widechildrens.org.
TEST UPDATES

Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Antibody Testing Methodology Change

On March 26, 2019, the NCH Immunoserology Laboratory will change methodology for EBV Antibody testing to an automated testing platform. The current method is an immunofluorescent assay (IFA) which provides results as a titer. The new method is an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and provides qualitative results (detected, not detected, equivocal) along with an interpretation when the profile is ordered.

The change includes the following new test codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Current Test code</th>
<th>New Test Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Epstein Barr Virus VCA Ab, IgG</td>
<td>EBVG</td>
<td>EBVGL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epstein Barr Virus VCA Ab, IgM</td>
<td>EBVM</td>
<td>EBVML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epstein Barr Virus Panel (includes: EBV VCA Ab IgG, EBV VCA Ab IgM, EBV Nuclear Ag-1 IgG)</td>
<td>EBVP</td>
<td>EBVPL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Plasma samples (EDTA) are no longer acceptable. Testing with the new methodology can be performed on serum samples only (Red top or Gold top collection tubes).
• Overall interpretation of panels will remain the same.

Factor II and Factor V Mutation Test Update

On February 13, the Institute for Genomic Medicine (IGM) Clinical Laboratory began offering the Factor II Prothrombin and Factor V Leiden Mutation Analysis (test code F52MUT) as two separate tests.

1. Factor II Prothrombin Mutation Assay (test code: F2MUT)
2. Factor V Leiden Mutation Assay (test code: F5MUT)

Previously, testing was performed for both Factor II and Factor V analysis simultaneously. Now, should the provider wish to order both Factors II and V testing, they will individually need to be ordered. If both are being ordered it is acceptable to only submit one 3mL tube for the two assays.

For more information about these test updates, please contact Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Client Services at (614) 722-5477 or (800) 934-6575.
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/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!