

Newton-Wellesley Hospital's LAB REPORT

Autumn 2010

Michael Misialek, MD Appointed to Associate Chief

Michael Misialek, MD, was recently appointed to Assistant Chair of Pathology at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Dr. Misialek has been on staff at the Hospital since January 2008, and has served with distinction as the Medical Director of the Chemistry Laboratory. In his capacity as Assistant Chair, Dr. Misialek will serve in an expanded leadership role with regard to the entire Clinical Laboratory. He is currently revising the Newton-Wellesley Laboratory Critical Test Result policy while serving on a committee charged with standardizing how critical results are managed throughout the Partners network.

Welcome Back Daniel Koelliker, MD

Daniel Koelliker, MD, recently rejoined the Medical Staff at Newton-Wellesley, and will serve as the Medical Director of the Hematology Laboratory. Dr. Koelliker completed his medical training at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and his postgraduate training at the University of Cincinnati, Brown University and Massachusetts General Hospital. He completed fellowship training in both cytology and gynecologic pathology at MGH. Dr. Koelliker was a member of the Newton-Wellesley Pathology Department from 1996 to 2006 and served in various roles including Medical Director of Cytology and Anatomic Pathology. Most recently, Dr. Koelliker served at Southcoast Hospitals Group, Charlton Hospital. We are excited to have Dr. Koelliker back on staff in the Pathology Department given his strong and varied clinical skill set, as well as his very approachable and collegial nature.

Coming Soon: Posting Of Pending Orders in the LMR and Lifepoint

We are pleased to announce that testing is currently underway with the Partners CDR and the Meditech development teams to provide users with a Pending Status in the Results Manager of the LMR, as well as in Lifepoint. Currently the viewer only sees a resulted status. A pending status will indicate that we've received the specimen and the test(s) has been ordered. Having this new pending status will improve patient care management, giving you the ability to view and confirm your lab order request on the same day it was received.

Lifepoint Enhancements

Lab results posting to the Inbox are now filtered in a way that eliminates duplicate copies from displaying. Results will now post to the user's Inbox either by clinician or by location rather than both. The patient's social security number has also been removed from the lab results.

In the enhancement queue for early 2011 is a Clinician Drop Down feature with the Inbox screen, allowing the user to select only results for a specific clinician to display in the Inbox.



NEWTON-WELLESLEY
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FOUNDED BY BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Influenza Testing

As we approach flu season, a reminder that the Newton-Wellesley Microbiology Department performs a rapid test for the qualitative detection of Influenza A & B viral antigens from nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes or swabs. The nasopharyngeal samples have sensitivities ranging from 74 to 86 percent for Influenza A and 50 to 85 percent for Influenza B, with aspirates being more sensitive than swabs and washes. Testing is available 24/7 and is available on a STAT basis.

Collection Guidelines:

Nasal Washes/Aspirates: Collect nasal washes in standard containers. Transport to the Laboratory as soon as possible. Washes can be refrigerated at 35.6 - 46.4°F for up to 24 hours prior to testing.

Nasopharyngeal and Nasal Swabs: Use sterile cotton, rayon, foam, polyester or nylon flocked flexible shaft NP swabs to collect nasopharyngeal sample. Use sterile cotton, rayon, foam polyester or nylon flocked solid shaft swabs to collect nasal swab samples.

Transport Media: The following transport media are acceptable- Amies, M4, M5, Saline, BHI Broth, Stuart's or UVT (Universal Transport Medium).

To order collection swabs or if you have testing questions, please call us at 617-243-6300.

Health care providers are reminded to consider influenza as a possible diagnosis when evaluating patients with acute respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia, even during the summer months. Once influenza has been documented in the community, tests do not need to be done on all patients with symptoms of the flu. A clinical diagnosis can be made for patients with signs and symptoms.

Information on influenza prevention, diagnosis and treatment can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu. Beginning this influenza season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends influenza vaccination on all persons six months of age and older. These updated recommendations can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr59e0729.pdf>

Auto Validation

The Newton-Wellesley Chemistry and Hematology Lab uses auto validation of patient results for several tests in the Core Lab. Auto validation is a process in which the computer consistently and automatically reviews and releases results that meet specific criterion approved by the medical director.

The introduction of auto validation into the Lab was key to improving our turnaround times and decreasing the chance of human error. Prior to auto validation, a medical technologist needed to manually review each and every result. Now the medical technologist can focus specifically on the abnormalities that the computer has detected and flagged for manual review. Converting to the auto validation process began in 2008 and today the Core Lab uses it for more than 80 general Chemistry and Hematology tests. The most recent test, HCG (Qualitative and Quantitative), went live on auto validation this past August.

Lab Service Reminders

- Our updated Laboratory Test Manual is available online via the Internet (www.crlonline.com/login) or the Newton-Wellesley Intranet home page (Laboratory Test Manual link on the lower left column). The login name and password are both NWH.
- When a specimen is being hand delivered to the Laboratory by the patient, we will need the patient to remain until a Lab or Registration staff person is able to review the requisition for completeness and check that the specimen is properly labeled with two patient identifiers.
- Based upon recommendations from the American Diabetes Association and other numerous groups, the Newton-Wellesley Lab is now providing mean blood glucose with HbA1C results. Mean blood glucose provides a new way to describe the relationship between glucose and the degree and duration of hyperglycemia. It clarifies in readily understandable values what the HbA1C translates to. This will greatly facilitate your care of the diabetic patient by providing patients with easily understandable terms.

Compliance Corner

Laboratory Patient Safety Goal: Accurate Patient Identification

The Department of Laboratory Services at Newton-Wellesley strives to provide the highest quality of care to its clients and patient population. The Patient Safety Goals outlined by the Joint Commission (JC) and the College of American Pathologist (CAP) require all laboratory specimens to be accurately labeled with two patient identifiers. This helps to ensure that the right result is provided for the right patient.

- The two acceptable patient identifiers for all Newton-Wellesley Laboratory specimens (except Blood Bank) are Patient Full (Legal) Name and Patient Date of Birth.
- The two acceptable patient identifiers for all Newton-Wellesley Blood Bank specimens are Patient Full (Legal) Name and Patient Medical Record Number.
- Please ensure that these two acceptable patient identifiers are clearly provided on the Newton-Wellesley Laboratory Requisition.
- Prior to any specimen collection, remember to actively involve the patient in the identification process by asking them their full name and date of birth when appropriate and when their reliability is not in question.
- Immediately after specimen collection, be sure to clearly label the specimen tubes with two acceptable patient identifiers in the presence of the patient.
- And finally, be sure to match the two patient identifiers on the Newton-Wellesley Laboratory Requisition and accompanying specimens for each patient before placing them in the specimen transport bag for courier pickup.