

Newton-Wellesley Hospital's LAB REPORT

Autumn 2011

New Pathology/Cytology Requisition with Peel Away Specimen Label

Patient safety is a primary focus of all caregivers. Appropriately labeled specimens are critically important to assure the reliability of the right result for the right patient. To help ensure that the patient information on the lab requisition matches the information on the lab specimen, we will offer a pathology/cytology requisition option that contains a peel away patient label for attaching to the specimen vial.

An important feature of the label is that it will contain a unique sequential number, which is acceptable as a third patient identifier. When the label is peeled away, a carbon copy of the patient's name, date of birth, gender and the sequential number will remain on the requisition as well.

For more information or if you would like to order these new requisitions for your office, please contact us at 617-243-6300 or nwblabcustomerservice@partners.org.

New Phlebotomy Supervisor

We are pleased to announce that **Michael Khang, MHA** has joined the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Laboratory as Phlebotomy Supervisor. Michael joins us with more than nine years of supervisory and phlebotomy experience, most recently from the Boston Medical Center, where he served as Phlebotomy Supervisor as well. Michael can be contacted at mkbang@partners.org or 617-243-6898.

Newton-Wellesley Lab to Implement New Stool Immuno Blood Test

Beginning December 1, 2011, the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Laboratory will be making a change to outpatient Fecal Occult Blood Testing (FOBT) from the sensitive guaiac based FOBT to a Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), using the Beckman Coulter Hemocult ICT test.

There are a number of advantages to using FIT testing. While remaining equal in sensitivity to the current guaiac test, the immunochemical method is noticeably more specific. Because it detects the human globin portion of hemoglobin, the FIT test has none of the drug or dietary interactions, which have led to false positives with other methods of FOBT. Importantly, since hemoglobin, which enters the upper GI tract, is broken down and loses much of its immunochemical reactivity during transit, the FIT test is specific for lower GI bleeding. As a result the immunochemical test has greater potential for better patient compliance and more specifically detects lower GI bleeding, making it the preferred method for screening for lower GI pathology including colorectal carcinoma and polyps.

The new ordering test code is SIBT and collection kits are available to order from Newton-Wellesley Lab Customer Service at 617-243-6300 or nwblabcustomerservice@partners.org. Please note: we will no longer provide the FOBT cards for outpatient and outreach offices as of December 1.



NEWTON-WELLESLEY
HOSPITAL



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 and B viral antigens from nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes or swabs. The nasopharyngeal samples have sensitivities ranging from the 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 held at 2-8C 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 contact 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.

More information on influenza prevention, diagnosis and treatment can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends influenza vaccination on all persons six months of age and older.

Optimal Specimen Collection Reminders

It is recommended to use a gray top tube when collecting a sample for glucose tests. The gray top collection tube contains an anticoagulant, which slows down the metabolism of glucose by the red blood cells. Falsely low glucose results are seen when there is a delay in transit of an unspun red top collection tube to the lab. This recommendation would include drawing a separate gray top for a glucose that is part of a panel as well. Gray top tubes are listed on the lab supply order form and may be ordered from Newton-Wellesley Lab Customer Service.

Weather Related Closings

A reminder to please contact Newton-Wellesley Lab Customer Service in the event your office will be closing early due to the weather so that we may best meet your courier needs.

Contact Us:

Client Services

Tel: 617-243-6300

Fax: 617-243-6767

email: nwhlab@partners.org

Sales and Marketing

617-243-5898



NEWTON-WELLESLEY
HOSPITAL

www.nwh.org

617-243-6300

nwhlab@partners.org



FOUNDED BY BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Compliance Corner

In order to maintain the required documentation of all test orders performed by our Laboratory Services, please remember that:

- **Verbal Orders** are only acceptable during urgent or AFTER-hour circumstances. Verbal Orders must be followed up by a WRITTEN order within 24 hours. Verbal Orders are not acceptable for Blood Bank requests.
- **Add-On Test Requests** also require documentation, using the yellow copy of the Newton-Wellesley Lab Requisition or the Add-On Request form. The documentation must include any additional supporting diagnostic data related to the added test(s).

Please remember to provide the **Patient's Full Name and Date of Birth** for accurate patient identification. Documentation for both Verbal Orders and Add-On tests can be faxed to our Lab Customer Service at 617-243-6767 or emailed to nwhlabcustomerservice@partners.org.