

Lab Updates

These updates can also be found on our web site:
<http://ournet.ummhc.org/C2/Hospital%20Labs/default.aspx>

APRIL 2006

Cell Counts on Body Fluids

Effective immediately, the laboratory will not accept red top tubes for Cell Counts on body fluids (CSF, peritoneal fluids, abdominal fluids, synovial fluid). Plastic red top tubes contain a clot activator that interferes with the laboratory testing.

Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) should be placed in a CSF tube (the tubes that are provided with the CSF tray) or a sterile urine container. Synovial fluids should be placed in a green top (heparin) or lavender top (EDTA) tube. Dialysate fluids should be placed in a sterile urine container. All other fluids should be placed in a lavender top (EDTA) tube.

Absolute CD4+ T Cell Counts by Flow Cytometry

Effective immediately, please draw a green sodium heparin tube for all CD3 and CD4 T cell count studies. The green top sodium heparin tube provides greater specimen stability and, therefore, more accurate CD3 and CD4 T cell counts. This change reflects the latest guidelines published by the CDC for single platform CD3 and CD4 testing. Specimen handling remains the same - specimens must be kept at room temperature. EDTA tube draws will still be accepted.

For any questions or comments regarding this change, please contact:
Flow Cytometry Laboratory: (508) 793-6230 or (508) 793-6234

JAK-2 (Janus Kinase-2) Gene Testing

Testing for **JAK-2** (Janus Kinase-2) gene testing in blood for Myeloproliferative Disorders (MPDs) will be performed in our Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory starting May 2006. The JAK-2 DNA assay will test for the percentage of JAK-2 normal and V617F mutant genes in blood. Mutations will be analyzed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. The report will indicate the percentage of JAK-2 normal and V617F mutant genes in the blood sample, and that testing was performed using MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

The Genetics Requisition must be used and sent with the sample.

The assay will be performed once a week, and the turn-around time will be 10-14 days.

For any questions or comments regarding this test, please contact:
Dr. Edward Ginns: (508) 856-8134, Dr. Marzena Galdzicka: (508) 856-4384, or Dr. Patricia Miron: (508) 334-7815

Carrier Screening for Cystic Fibrosis DNA Mutations

Carrier screening for Cystic Fibrosis DNA mutations will be performed in our Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory starting May 2006. The Cystic Fibrosis mutation assay will test for 43 mutations, including all mutations recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics 2006 revised mutation panel, and several specific mutations for certain racial/ethnic groups in the US population. DNA mutations will be analyzed using an INVADER DNA assay (Third Wave), a Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) detection system.

The Genetics Requisition must be used and sent with the sample, with physician attestation of either symptomatic disease or that informed consent for carrier testing was obtained.

The format of the reports will change slightly; reports will indicate that testing for 43 mutations in the Cystic Fibrosis gene was performed using the INVADER technology.

The assay will be performed once a week, and the turn-around time will be 10-14 days.

For any questions or comments regarding this test, please contact:

Dr. Edward Ginns: (508) 856-8134, Dr. Marzena Galdzicka: (508) 856-4384, or Dr. Patricia Miron: (508) 334-7815

New Patient Service Center Locations

Waltham

20 Hope Avenue – Suite G03
Waltham, MA 02453
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Closed 12:15pm – 1:15pm
(781) 899-2586

North Andover

451 Andover Street – Suite 206
North Andover, MA 01845
Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:30pm
Closed 12:15pm – 1:15pm
(978) 989-9238

Worcester

67 Belmont Street – 2nd Floor
Worcester, MA 01605
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Closed 12:15pm – 1:15pm
(508) 334-5396

North Andover

630 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA 01845
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Closed 12:15pm – 1:15pm

******Opening on June 1, 2006******

Framingham

61 Lincoln Street
Framingham, MA 01702
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Closed 12:15pm – 1:15pm