Protein Electrophoresis Testing II
Myeloma and Myeloma Related Disorders Detection
(Continuation from last month’s Protein Electrophoresis Testing I: ”Faint Discrete Band” and ”Equivocal Pattern”)

1. PRIMARY TESTING
   a. If clinically suspicious for myeloma or myeloma related disorders, please order the three following tests:
      i. Serum Protein Electrophoresis
      ii. Serum Immunofixation
      iii. Kappa and Lambda Free Light Chains (serum free light chains)

2. SECONDARY TESTING
   a. If monoclonal protein is detected by primary testing to determine presence, degree, and nature (free light chains (Bence-Jones protein)) of urinary monoclonal protein
      OR
   b. If no monoclonal protein is detected but there is a high index of suspicion for myeloma or myeloma related disorder
      OR
   c. If light chain myeloma is clinically suspected
      i. 24 Hour Urine for Protein Electrophoresis and Immunofixation

There is questionable utility for random urine protein electrophoresis and immunofixation. The random urine protein electrophoresis and immunofixation orderables will be removed from the laboratory test menu. Future requests for these tests will be cancelled. Date of discontinuation to be announced.

The most important diagnostic test is the history, physical and clinical impression. Testing for myeloma and myeloma related disorders should not be ordered unless there is a clinical reason to suspect the disorder.

This strategy has been reviewed with Hematology and Oncology. Please contact Dr. David Alter via email to David.Alter@spectrumhealth.org for associated questions.
ICD-10 Transition (continued from page 1)
Another positive development from the ICD-10 transition for Spectrum Laboratory was the creation of our centralized laboratory orders fax line, One Fax! Any laboratory testing order can be faxed to (616) 774-7696 and that order will be accessible from any Spectrum Laboratory Draw Site in the Grand Rapids, Big Rapids and Gerber (Fremont) area.

Spectrum Health Laboratory is No Longer Accepting Invalid Diagnoses
Effective Thursday, November 19th, Spectrum Health Laboratory will no longer accept new orders (written or ordered after November 19th) that are missing a diagnosis description or contain only an ICD-9 coded diagnosis. On October 1, 2015, ICD-10 codes went into effect. This was a national change to diagnostic coding and all orders post October 1st should have an ICD-10 code or a verbiage diagnosis listed. Any patient that presents with an order without a diagnosis, or only an ICD-9 coded diagnosis, will have a phone call placed to the ordering provider for an updated ICD-10 compliant diagnosis. If the provider cannot be reached, the patient’s testing will be postponed.

Spectrum Health Laboratory is No Longer Accepting Single Patient Identifiers on Specimens
As of September 1, 2015, all specimens must be labeled with 2 patient identifiers (Name and Date of Birth) for patient safety. If 2 patient identifiers are not used on the specimen, your order will be cancelled and a request for recollection will be made. This includes Cytology specimens. Please refer to the Laboratory News from May.

Chemistry Department News

New Orderables Announcement: Hepatitis C Antibody Screening and Hepatitis C Antibody Diagnostic
Effective November 10, 2015 the Spectrum Health Laboratory will have two separate orderables for Hepatitis C Antibody: Hepatitis C Antibody Screening and Hepatitis C Antibody Diagnostic.

This change in ordering is being made because there are now separate CPT billing codes for this test ordered for screening purposes and this test ordered when a diagnosis of hepatitis is clinically suspected.

The Hepatitis C Antibody Screening orderable should be used when the test is ordered for the following screening purposes:

- Patients in the “baby boom” generation (born between 1945 and 1965) where the CDC has specifically recommended screening (one time only)
- Patients with a history of blood transfusions prior to 1992 (one time only)
- Intravenous drug abusers (annually with continued abuse)

The Hepatitis C Antibody Diagnostic orderable should be used when the test is ordered in patients with clinical symptoms suggestive of hepatitis, elevated liver enzymes, or other clinical or laboratory findings where hepatitis C infection is clinically suspected or part of the differential diagnosis.

The existing single Hepatitis C Antibody orderable will be inactivated once the above new orderables are placed into use. This is a change for billing purposes, and not for any medical purpose. There will be no change in the reporting of Hepatitis C Antibody results with either of the two new orderables. Positive Hepatitis C Antibody results from either orderable will still be reflexed to the Hepatitis C Virus RNA test.

New Orderable Announcement: Glucose, Fasting Blood Level
Effective November 9, 2015, the Spectrum Health Laboratory will have a separate orderable for fasting blood glucose level.

This will allow for ordering of a fasting blood glucose when only a glucose level is needed and for the reporting of the result as a fasting level. This test should only be ordered for fasting patients (at least 8 hours). This test will be cancelled if ordered concomitantly with a panel that contains blood glucose (i.e. CMP, BMP, etc).

Please contact Dr. David Alter via email to David.Alter@spectrumhealth.org for associated questions.
Microbiology Department News

Clostridium difficile Toxin, PCR testing – Antimicrobial Stewardship

In an effort to increase quality of care for our patients and decrease the overuse of antibiotics, the Microbiology Department in conjunction with Infectious Disease recommends when Clostridium difficile Toxin, PCR (“C-diff”) testing is ordered, only liquid stools (i.e. watery) should be sent to the Laboratory. Any formed or soft stools will be rejected and testing will be canceled.

Collection Guides

Flu season is coming! Make sure you know how to collect these specimens:

- How to collect: Nasopharyngeal Collection
- How to collect: Throat Swab Collection
- How to collect: eSwab Collection
- How to collect: UTM Viral Media
- How to collect: Microbiology Quick Guide

General Announcements

eShare users

Effective Tuesday, November 3rd the “Special Instructions” information will be removed from the eShare application. It will be replaced with directions to use the Online Laboratory Catalog. A link to the Catalog will be added to the bottom of the ordered test under Additional Information. This will ensure that collectors have the most up-to-date and comprehensive information available. Please see screenshot below for example:

Outpatient Laboratory Holiday Hours

In observance of the upcoming holidays, Outpatient Laboratories (Draw Sites) schedules will be adjusted as follows:

November:
CLOSED: Thursday, November 26, 2015
OPEN: Friday, November 27, 2015 (regularly scheduled hours)

December:
LIMITED HOURS: Thursday, December 24, 2015 (7am – Noon)
CLOSED: Friday, December 25, 2015
OPEN: Saturday, December 26, 2015 (regularly scheduled hours)

January:
CLOSED: Friday, January 1, 2016
OPEN: Saturday, January 2, 2016 (regularly scheduled hours)

For information regarding laboratory locations, hours and phone numbers please visit Laboratory Locations on the SpectrumHealth.org site.

Please email LaboratoryServices@spectrumhealth.org with any questions or concerns.