Test Bulletin

ALVERNO LABORATORIES

May 2026

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The information contained here may be very important to your practice. Please take a moment to review this document for changes that may apply to you.

Urinalysis Reporting Values Update

Quantitative and semi-quantitative urinalysis reporting values have been updated. See pages 2 for an explanation of changes and page 3 for an example of the new format.

Viral Load Minimum Volume

Alverno has noted insufficient sample volume for molecular viral-load testing . See page 4 for details on how to prevent delays and rejections for viral-load tests.

BNP Sample Requirements

To ensure accurate BNP results, specimen handling requirements have been updated. BNP samples must be submitted as plasma aliquots that are frozen at the sending-site. Refrigerated plasma specimens are discouraged. See page 5 for details.

Urinalysis Labelling Reminder

To ensure accurate specimen identification and prevent processing delays, please follow proper labeling practices for urinalysis tubes. See page 6 for details.

Infliximab Test Discontinuation at Quest Diagnostics as of May 2026

Test code INRA, Infliximab Level and Anti-drug Antibody for Rheumatic Diseases, has been discontinued by Quest.
Replacement Test Name: Infliximab Level and Anti-drug Antibody for IBD.
Replacement Soft Code: INIBD
Sample Type: Red-top Serum, aliquoted, sent refrigerated. Gel will interfere with assay.

Nicotine (Cotinine) Test Transitioning to Quest Diagnostics as of April 2026

Reminder: Nicotine testing has transitioned to Quest Diagnostics, please see the April Test Bulletin for additional information.
Test Name: Nicotine (Cotinine)
New Soft Code: NICOS (replacing NICTS), Quest ID 90642, CPT 80323
Sample Type: Red-top Serum, aliquoted, sent refrigerated. Gel will interfere with assay.

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UTILIZATION GUIDES

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Urinalysis results will now be reported using vendor-standard semi-quantitative values (e.g., *trace, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+*) instead of the previous descriptive alphanumeric terms (e.g., *small, moderate, large*). Additionally, urobilinogen reference range has changed from "negative" to "normal". Qualitative results, such as specific gravity remain unchanged but abnormal flagging is now standardized.

This will be reflected in reports for all urinalysis testing across Franciscan, Ascension, and the Alverno Central Laboratory. Results in downstream systems (Epic, Cerner, Atlas, etc.) will reflect the updated format.

There are no changes in ordering individual tests or panels; no changes to analytes tested or clinical interpretation thresholds; no changes to result workflows, including reflex testing, and the overall report structure will remain consistent.

Please see page 3 for a list of affected urinalysis test codes and an example of the new reporting format.

Affected Components and Expected Results

Component	Previously Reported (Old)	Now Being Reported (New)
Glucose	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, Trace, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+
Ketones	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, Trace, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+
Protein	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, Trace, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+
Blood	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, Trace, 1+, 2+, 3+
Bilirubin	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+
Urobilinogen	Negative (or numeric/descriptor-based)	Normal, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+
Nitrite	Negative / Positive	Negative, 1+, 2+
Leukocyte Esterase	Negative, Small, Moderate, Large	Negative, 25, 75, 250, 500
Specific Gravity	Numeric value (e.g., 1.015) with prior flagging rules	Numeric value (unchanged) with updated abnormal flagging >1.030

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Example of Updated Urinalysis Report

URINALYSIS

Test Name	Result	AB	Ref-Ranges	Units	Site
COLLECTED 11/13/25 11:31				Specimen:	
Chemical Analysis					
Color	YELLOW		YELLOW		N
Clarity	CLEAR		CLEAR		N
pH	7.0		5.0-8.0		N
Specific grav	1.026		1.005-1.030		N
Glucose	TRACE	AB	NEGATIVE	mg/dL	N
Glucose					
Ketones Urine	TRACE	AB	NEGATIVE	mg/dL	N
Ketones					
Bilirubin	1+	AB	NEGATIVE		N
Bilirubin					
Protein	TRACE	AB	NEGATIVE	mg/dL	N
Protein					
Blood	TRACE	AB	NEGATIVE		N
Blood					
Urobilinogen	1+	AB	NORMAL	mg/dL	N
Urobilinogen					
Nitrite	1+	AB	NEGATIVE		N
Nitrite					
Leukoesterase	25	AB	NEGATIVE		N
Leukoesterase					

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Molecular Viral Load Minimum Volumes
May 2026

Our laboratory is currently receiving insufficient specimen volume for HIV, HCV, HBV, and CMV testing, which can lead to delays and specimen rejection. To ensure accurate and timely results, please submit one properly filled tube per test and do not send multiple tubes unless specified in the collection manual, as our system is not designed to handle or store additional unexpected tubes. Please also ensure minimum volume requirements are met and specimens are transported promptly under appropriate conditions. See the table below for additional details.

	Alverno Test Code	Preferred Specimen	Alternative Specimen	Minimum Volume*	Specimen Stability Post Collection		Transport
HIV	HIVAL	2 mL plasma collected in EDTA (lavender top) tube	Plasma collected in EDTA gel separator (pearl top) tube	0.9 mL Plasma	Whole blood	Refrigerated: 2 days	Refrigerated
					Plasma	Refrigerated: 3 days	
					Plasma	Frozen: 60 days	
HCV or HBV	HCVAL HBVAL	2 mL serum collected in SST (gold top) tube	Plasma collected in EDTA (lavender top) tube Plasma collected in EDTA gel separator (pearl top) tube	0.9 mL Plasma or Serum	Whole blood	Refrigerated: 3 days	Refrigerated
					Plasma or Serum	Refrigerated: 3 days	
					Plasma or Serum	Frozen: 60 days	
CMV	CMVAL	2 mL plasma collected in EDTA (lavender top) tube	Plasma collected in EDTA gel separator (pearl top) tube	0.9 mL Plasma	Whole blood	Refrigerated: 5 days	Refrigerated
					Plasma	Refrigerated: 5 days	
					Plasma	Frozen: 60 days	

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BNP Updated Sample Requirements
May 2026

To ensure optimal assay accuracy and stability, BNP specimens must be submitted as aliquoted EDTA plasma that has been frozen prior to transportation to the Alverno Central Laboratory. Whole blood must be centrifuged and EDTA plasma separated within 7 hours of collection.

Plasma is only stable:

Up to 7 hours from collection at 15–30°C
Up to 24 hours from collection at 2–8°C
Freezing significantly increases stability.

For optimal stability and transport, plasma should be aliquoted and frozen as soon as possible; frozen plasma allows for extended storage and preserves analyte integrity. While refrigerated plasma samples will not be rejected at this time, there is an increased risk of specimen rejection due to stability constraints.

Adhering to these updated requirements will help maintain specimen integrity and improve the reliability of BNP measurements for patient care.

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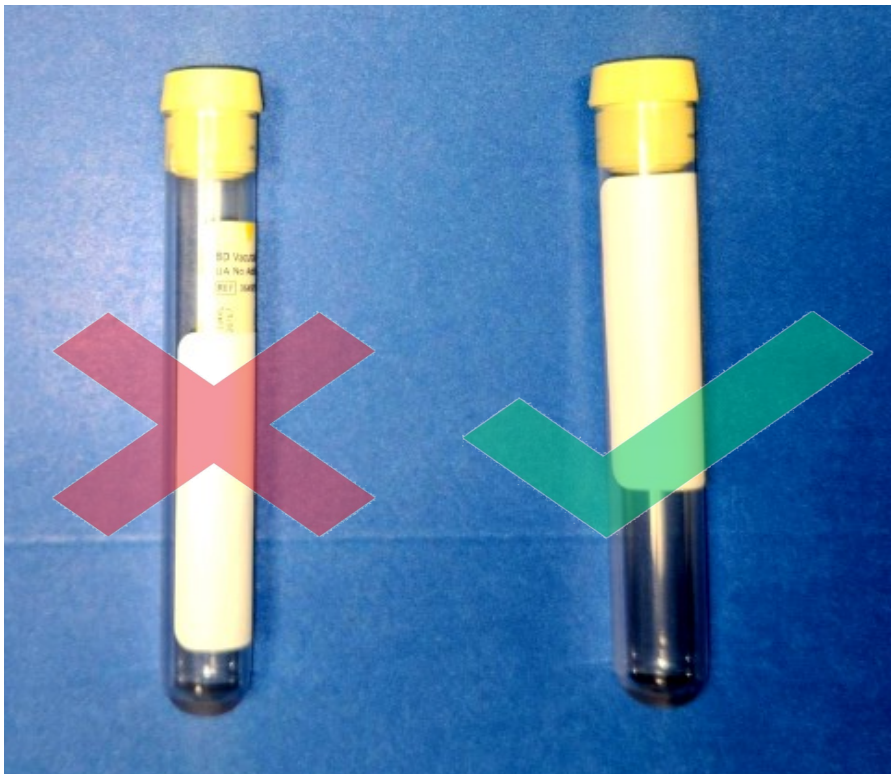
Urinalysis Labeling Reminder
May 2026

To ensure accurate specimen identification and prevent processing delays, please follow proper labeling practices for urinalysis tubes.

Patient labels should be applied just beneath the tube cap, covering the vendor label while leaving the base of the cap clearly visible. Labels should not be placed too low on the tube, as this can interfere with instrument scanning and specimen handling.

Adhering to correct label placement helps ensure efficient processing and reduces the risk of identification errors.



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