Test Bulletin

ALVERNO LABORATORIES

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The information contained here may be very important to your practice. Please take a moment to review this document.

Peripheral Blood Smear "Manual Differential" and "Pathology Review" – Rarely Indicated
July 2024

The standard CBC process, using Soft code CBC3, uses well-established criteria to ensure that a manual differential and pathology review are performed when needed. In most scenarios, ordering a manual differential (CBCMN) and provider ordered PREVW are unnecessary. **See page 2 for details.**

Fecal Culture Ordering Update
August 30, 2024

Effective Friday, August 30, 2024, Alverno Laboratories will discontinue a duplicate test code for fecal culture. **See page 3 for details.**

HPV Rectal Ordering Update
August 2024

Alverno Laboratories will be replacing the testing for rectal HPV molecular testing offered through Quest Diagnostics to include a more comprehensive assessment of HPV nucleic acids. Test HPVRE will be replacing HPVAR. **See page 3 for details.**

Herpes Simplex Virus by PCR
August 2024

Alverno Laboratories offers two Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) by PCR tests, with notable differences in acceptable specimens and performing laboratory. **See page 4 for details.**

Bile Acids, Total (Enzymatic) Ordering Update
August 2024

Quest Diagnostics will be offering in-house testing for Bile Acids, Total, Enzymatic under Soft test code BILAC at the Chantilly, VA location. This test can be used to screen pregnant women for obstetric cholestasis. This will replace the previous performing lab and will result in substantially improved turnaround time. **See page 4 for details.**

Fetal Fibronectin Discontinuation Update
August 2024

Previously, a list of Franciscan hospitals that offer Fetal Fibronectin testing onsite was issued. Additional Ascension sites that also perform Fetal Fibronectin are included as Quest Diagnostics discontinued offering Fetal Fibronectin testing in April 2024. **See page 5 for details.**

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Peripheral Blood Smear "Manual Differential" and "Pathology Review" – Rarely Indicated

July 2024

The standard CBC includes an automated differential performed by modern analyzers that count thousands of cells, typically greater than 8,000 and up to 50,000 in certain scenarios, and are much more advanced than their predecessors. When established criteria are met, the blood smear is reviewed by a laboratory technologist. These criteria for reflex to manual review were derived from a large study using published guidelines for positive blood smear findings with participation by all Alverno sites in collaboration with the instrument manufacturer. False positive and false negative statistics were evaluated and optimized by Alverno's Standardization Committee consisting of leader representatives from all sites in consultation with site Medical Directors. A conservative approach was taken; false negatives were minimized at the expense of some false positives; more smears would be sent for review so as to capture all smears needing review (and a few that really don't).

Additional established criteria are used to determine if a manual differential needs to be performed by the reviewing technologist. Upon review of the peripheral smear, if the technologist finds any abnormal or immature cells, increased reactive lymphocytes or bands, a manual differential is performed. There is no additional charge for the manual review by a technologist. Further established criteria determine whether additional review by a pathologist is needed. There is a professional charge for the pathologist review.

The standard CBC process is a well-researched and established system that combines the strengths of automated analyzers and well-trained technologists. It ensures accurate and sensitive results as well as maximizes efficiency. In contrast, the manual differential (CBCMN test code) requires a manual differential to be performed regardless of criteria. Manual differentials only count 100 cells and are therefore less sensitive than the combination of automation with technologist review. Manual differentials are more time consuming and have an increased cost. The standard CBC (CBC3 test code) is preferred because it reduces time the trained technologists spend on normal blood smears for which the automated differential is suited and allows technologists more time to devote to abnormal peripheral blood smears and other patient testing responsibilities.

When a Pathology Review (PREVW test code) order is placed by the provider, a pathologist will review the smear regardless of what is seen on the peripheral smear. Due to this ordering practice, many normal peripheral smears are being unnecessarily reviewed. Those that are abnormal will be reflexed for a pathologist to review them if the established criteria are met. Rare scenarios may be appropriate for ordering a pathology review prior to a CBC being performed such as a clinical suspicion of TTP with a documented thrombocytopenia.

In summary, the standard CBC process uses well-established criteria to ensure that a manual differential and pathology review are performed when needed, making the ordering of them unnecessary in most scenarios; a standard, automated CBC is routinely all that is needed.

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Fecal Culture Ordering Update
August 30, 2024

Effective Friday, August 30, 2024, Alverno Laboratories will discontinue a duplicate test code for fecal culture. Please see below for additional details.

Inactivated Test: FECEC – Fecal Culture
Active Test Code & Name: FEC – Fecal Culture

HPV Rectal Ordering Update
August 2024

Alverno Laboratories will be replacing the testing for rectal HPV molecular testing offered through Quest Diagnostics to include a more comprehensive assessment of HPV nucleic acids. **Test HPVRE will be replacing HPVAR**. Please see the table below for additional details.

There are no changes to the preferred specimen, collection instructions, transport temperature, stability, or methodology. Full details can be found in the Alverno Collection Manual.

Soft Test Code	Quest Test Code	Test Name
HPVAR	92807	HPV Genotypes 16, 18/45, Anal-Rectal
HPVRE	92810	HPV mRNA E6/E7, Rectal with Reflex to Genotypes 16, 18/45

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PRC Test Specific for Herpes Simplex Virus				
Soft Code	**Quest Code**	**Performing Lab**	**Test Name**	**Acceptable Specimens**
HSVP	N/A	Alverno (Molecular Dept.)	HSV-1/2 by PCR	• Swabs in BD UTM (universal transport media) • CSF or bronchial wash in sterile container only
PHS12	34257	Quest	HSV-1/2 Subtype by PCR	• Pleural fluid, amniotic fluid, pericardial fluid, or vitreous fluid in a sterile container • Serum (SST), EDTA whole blood, EDTA plasma

Bile Acids, Total (Enzymatic) Ordering Update
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Quest Diagnostics will be offering in-house testing for Bile Acids, Total, Enzymatic under Soft test code BILAC at the Chantilly, VA location. **This test can be used to screen pregnant women for obstetric cholestasis.** This will replace the previous performing lab and will result in a substantially improved turnaround time. Please see below for additional details. Full details can be found in the Alverno Collection Manual.

Soft Test Code: BILAC
Quest Test Code: 14801
Test Name: Bile Acids, Total, Enzymatic
Patient Preparation: Fast for 8 hours
Specimen: 1 mL serum in SST (gold-top)
Specimen Preparation: Centrifuge serum samples within 1 hour of collection and transfer serum into sterile transport tube.
Stability: 7 days refrigerated
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated

Fetal Fibronectin Discontinuation Update
August 2024

Effective Monday, April 1, 2024, Quest Diagnostics discontinued offering Fetal Fibronectin testing without a replacement offering. Clinics should refer patients to the local hospital for testing.

Previously, a list of Franciscan hospitals that offer Fetal Fibronectin testing onsite was issued. Additional Ascension sites that also perform Fetal Fibronectin are included and can be reviewed below.

Inactivated Test: FFN – Fetal Fibronectin
New Test Code & Name: No replacement

Franciscan Hospitals offering testing
- Franciscan Health Olympia Fields
- Franciscan Health Crown Point
- Franciscan Health Lafayette East (Amnisure testing)
- Franciscan Health Indianapolis

Ascension Hospitals offering testing
- Ascension Mercy, Aurora
- Ascension St. Mary, Chicago
- Ascension Resurrection, Chicago
- Ascension St. Joseph, Elgin
- Ascension St. Alexius, Hoffman Estates