

Test Bulletin



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

Viral Load Test Code Update **June 2022**

Alverno Laboratories has completed its transition for viral load testing to the Alinity m instruments. This transition has resulted in the discontinuation of several test codes. Refer to the table on **page 2** for a list of the new quantitative viral load test codes and more.

Tramadol Metabolite Reporting Update **June 2022**

Effective immediately, Alverno Laboratories will suspend reporting quantitative values for N-desmethyltramadol. Due to jurisdiction changes, the standard for N-desmethyltramadol is no longer available as a DEA-exempt drug for sale. See **page 3** for details.

Anti-Streptolysin-O (ASO) Reference Range Update **June 2022**

Alverno Laboratories will be updating its reference ranges for Anti-Streptolysin-O. Please review the new reference ranges in the table below.

Old Reference Range	New Reference Range
Up to 4 years: 0 – 117 IU/mL 5 – 19 years: 0 – 250 IU/mL Greater than 19 years: 0 – 117 IU/mL	Up to 2 years: 0 – 50 IU/mL 3 years to adult: 0 – 250 IU/mL

BAL Cell Count Reporting Update **June 6, 2022**

Effective June 6, 2022, Alverno Laboratories will discontinue reporting cell counts for broncho-alveolar lavage (BAL) specimens. The cell differential and cytology analysis will continue to be provided for this specimen type.

Lead Critical Values Update **June 14, 2022**

In accordance with CDC guidelines, Alverno Laboratories will be updating its critical value reporting for pediatric lead testing. The new critical value can be seen in the table below. Lead values will continue to be reported to the State Department of Public Health as well.

Age Range	Old Critical Value	New Critical Value
0 – 15 years	≥ 5.0 ug/dL	≥ 3.5 ug/dL

UTILIZATION GUIDES

Viral Load Test Code & Collection Guidelines Update

June 2022

Alverno Laboratories has completed its transition for viral load testing to the Alinity m instruments. This transition has resulted in the discontinuation of several test codes. Refer to the table below for a list of the new quantitative viral load test codes.

Test Codes

Test Description	Discontinued Soft Code	New Soft Code
Hepatitis B viral load quant by PCR	HBVQP	HBVAL
Hepatitis C viral load quant by PCR	HCVT	HCVAL
HIV viral load quant by PCR	HIVQ	HIVAL

Collection & Specimen Processing Guidelines

Refer to the table below for acceptable tube types for collection.

Collection

Test	Preferred Tube Type	Alternate Tube Type
HBVAL	Gold top (SST)	Lavender (EDTA)
HCVAL	Gold top (SST)	Lavender (EDTA)
HIVAL	Lavender (EDTA)	Pearl (EDTA)

Specimen Processing

After collection, centrifuge for complete separation of serum or plasma and red cells. If using a tube **without** a gel barrier, transfer serum or plasma to an aliquot tube. Refrigerate until testing.

Test Summary



UTILIZATION GUIDES

Tramadol Metabolite Reporting Update

June 2022

Effective immediately, Alverno Laboratories will suspend reporting quantitative values for N-desmethyltramadol. Due to jurisdiction changes, the standard for N-desmethyltramadol is no longer available as a DEA-exempt drug for sale. Special licensing is currently being sought by the vendor. This disruption is expected to last several months and will be resolved as soon as possible. During this time, reporting of N-desmethyltramadol will only be available qualitatively. The clinical impact is minimal as any sample from a patient taking Tramadol will show Tramadol parent “positive” with quantitation and N-desmethyltramadol “detected.” A patient taking Tramadol as prescribed will still be interpreted as “consistent.”