

# Test Bulletin



Dear Healthcare Provider,

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

## **STI Collection Guidelines February 2024**

The most up to date guidelines for Alinity m STI Specimen Collection Requirements. **See page 2 for details.**

## **New Quest Test Updates February 2024**

The following test offerings are now available for ordering in Soft Lab and Atlas LIS systems:

- PLADG – Platelet Antibody, Direct – Quest code 5019
- TORCA – Torch Panel, Acute – Quest code 12596
- DMPHB – Drug Monitoring, Phosphatidylethanol (PEth), Blood – Quest code 12198
- POQRU – Porphobilinogen, Quantitative, Random Urine – Quest code 6329
- OLANZ – Olanzapine – Quest code 70073
- BILEP – Bile Acids, Pregnancy – Quest code 19546

**See page 3 for details.**

## **MIC Breakpoints Update, Oxacillin & Piperacillin-Tazobactam March 2024**

The Microbiology Department of Alverno Laboratories has moved to the new CLSI MIC breakpoints and interpretations for two antibiotic/organism target combinations. **See page 4 for details.**

## **Hemoglobin A1C Testing Frequency Update March 2024**

Effective January 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) to expand coverage for Hemoglobin A1C to allow testing 2 times every 12 months for all beneficiaries. **See page 5 for details.**

## STI Specimen Collection Requirements February 2024



- **URINE SAMPLES**
  - Add urine to collection tube as soon as possible.
  - Add urine until liquid falls between MIN-MAX lines.
  - Do not overfill or underfill. Sample will be rejected.
  - Do NOT place swab into collection tube if sample is urine. Discard swab.
- **SWAB SAMPLES**
  - Carefully break the swab at the scored line on the shaft after placing swab into collection tube so that white tip is down.
- **COLLECTION DEVICE**
  - Patient label MUST NOT cover blue label on tube.
  - Leave part of fill window visible.
  - Take care to ONLY touch the orange portion of the collection tube cap.
- **ENSURE APPROVED SOURCE IS ENTERED ELECTRONICALLY WHEN ORDER IS PLACED**  
(See included table).

Specimen Type	CTPCR	NGPCR	TVPCR	STI2	STI3
CERVICAL	X	X	X	X	X
VAGINAL	X	X	X	X	X
URINE	X	X	X	X	X
THINPREP	X	X	X	X	X
RECTAL	X	X		X	
THROAT	X	X		X	

## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### New Quest Test Updates February 2024

The following test offerings are now available for ordering in Soft Lab and Atlas LIS systems:

- PLADG – Platelet Antibody, Direct – Quest code 5019
- TORCA – Torch Panel, Acute – Quest code 12596
- DMPHB – Drug Monitoring, Phosphatidylethanol (PEth), Blood – Quest code 12198
- POQRU – Porphobilinogen, Quantitative, Random Urine – Quest code 6329
- OLANZ – Olanzapine – Quest code 70073
- BILEP – Bile Acids, Pregnancy – Quest code 19546

These tests are replacements for previously discontinued offerings. Please check you local LIS system for availability.

New Offering	Discontinued Test
<b>PLADG</b> - Platelet Antibody, Direct <i>Quest Code 5019</i>	<b>PLIGG</b> - Platelet Antibody, Direct (IgG) <i>Quest Code 91740</i>
<b>TORCA</b> - Torch Panel, Acute <i>Quest Code 12596</i>	<b>TORAP</b> - Torch Panel, Acute <i>Quest Code 6444</i>
<b>DMPHB</b> - Drug monitoring, Phosphatidylethanol (Peth), Blood <i>Quest Code 12198</i>	<b>PETWB</b> - Phosphatidylethanol, Whole Blood <i>Quest Code 37850</i>
<b>OLANZ</b> - Olanzapine <i>Quest Code 70073</i>	<b>APSYC</b> - Drug Monitoring, Antipsychotics, with Confirmation, Serum <i>Quest Code 94529</i>
<b>POQRU</b> - Porphobilinogen, Quantitative, Random Urine <i>Quest Code 6329</i>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>BILEP</b> - Bile Acids, Pregnancy <i>Quest Code 19546</i>	<b>N/A</b>

UTILIZATION GUIDES

## MIC Breakpoints Update, Oxacillin & Piperacillin-Tazobactam March 2024

The Microbiology Department of Alverno Laboratories has moved to the new CLSI MIC breakpoints and interpretations for two antibiotic/organism target combinations. Please see the tables below for details.

New Breakpoints		
<b>Organisms:</b> coagulase negative staphylococcus (excluding <i>S. lugdunensis</i> )		
Drug	Dilution	Interpretation
Oxacillin	≤0.5	S, susceptible
	≥1	R, resistant
<b>Organisms:</b> Enterobacterales		
Drug	Dilution	Interpretation
Piperacillin/Tazobactam	≤8/4	S, susceptible
	16/4	I, intermediate
	≥32/4	R, resistant

Old Breakpoints		
<b>Organisms:</b> coagulase negative staphylococcus (excluding <i>S. lugdunensis</i> )		
Drug	Dilution	Interpretation
Oxacillin	≤0.25	S, susceptible
	≥0.5	R, resistant
<b>Organisms:</b> Enterobacterales		
Drug	Dilution	Interpretation
Piperacillin/Tazobactam	≤16/4	S, susceptible
	32/4 - 64/4	I, intermediate
	≥128/4	R, resistant

## Hemoglobin A1C Testing Frequency Update March 2024

Effective January 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) to expand coverage for Hemoglobin A1C to allow testing 2 times every 12 months for all beneficiaries.

Performance of the HbA1c test at least 2 times a year in patients who are meeting treatment goals and who have stable glycemic control is supported by the American Diabetes Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes – 2016.

Additionally, coverage is also available for the following circumstances:

- Up to 1 additional test per 3-month period for diabetes mellitus out of control
- Up to 1 monthly test for pregnant Type I diabetic patients