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.

Quest Test Updates: COVID Antibody Testing
July 15, 2024
Effective July 15, 2024, Quest discontinued two COVID antibody tests. **See page 4 for replacement details.**

Quest Test Updates: Microsporidia Exam
July 22, 2024
Effective July 22, 2024, Quest no longer accepts urine, CSF, bronchoalveolar lavage, or corneal scrapings as specimens for microsporidia exam. The only acceptable specimens are stool and duodenal aspirates. **See page 5 for details.**

Quest Test Updates: Borrelia Species by RT-PCR, Qualitative
July 29, 2024
Effective July 29, 2024, Quest no longer accepts whole blood collected in ACD (yellow-top) tubes for qualitative assessment of Borrelia species by RT-PCR. **See page 5 for details.**

Pre-Analytical Test Information: Creatinine Clearance & 24h Urine Testing
July 2024
Information must be entered in a standardized manner for creatinine clearance and 24h urine testing. Only whole numbers should be entered. **See page 6 for details.**

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 7 for details.**

Fecal Culture Ordering Update
August 30, 2024
Effective Friday, August 30, 2024, Alverno Laboratories discontinued a duplicate test code for fecal culture. **See page 8 for details.**

2434 Interstate Plaza Drive, Hammond, IN 46324 | www. AlvernoLabs.com | 800-937-5521

Test Bulletin

ALVERNO LABORATORIES

HPV Rectal Ordering Update
August 2024

Alverno Laboratories replaced the testing for rectal HPV molecular testing offered through Quest Diagnostics to include a more comprehensive assessment of HPV nucleic acids. Test HPVRE replaced HPVAR. **See page 8 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 9 for details.**

Bile Acids, Total (Enzymatic) Ordering Update
August 2024

Quest Diagnostics is 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 replaced the previous performing lab and resulted in substantially improved turnaround time. **See page 9 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 10 for details.**

Quest Test Update: Amylase Isoenzyme
August 26, 2024

Effective 8/26/2024, Quest no longer accepts serum specimens (SST tube) for amylase isoenzyme testing. **See page 11 for details.**

HPV Rectal Ordering Clarification
September 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 as the *orderable test.* HPVAR will auto-reflex if HPVRE is positive. **See page 11 for details.**

Test Bulletin

ALVERNO LABORATORIES

Clarification of Bile Acid Testing
September 2024

Alverno Laboratories offers 3 distinct tests for Bile Acid testing via Quest Diagnostics. *Importantly, for pregnant patients Soft code BILAC can be used to screen for obstetric cholestasis. For a more comprehensive test for pregnant patients, including fractionated and total bile acids, consider Soft code BILEP.* **See page 3 for details.**

2434 Interstate Plaza Drive, Hammond, IN 46324 | www. AlvernoLabs.com | 800-937-5521

Quest Test Updates: COVID Antibody Testing
July 15, 2024

Effective July 15, 2024, Quest discontinued two COVID antibody tests. Please see below for additional details regarding replacement tests, which should be ordered as UNCMS.

Inactivated Test: #34499: SARS-CoV-2 Antibody (IgG), Spike, Semi-Quantitative
Replacement Soft Code: UNCMS
Replacement Quest Code: 39820
Replacement Quest Name: SARS-CoV-2 Total Antibody, Spike, Semi-Quantitative
Preferred Specimen: 1 mL serum (0.5 mL minimum)
Stability: Refrigerated – 7 days
Transport: Refrigerated

Inactivated Test: #31672: SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies (IgG nucleocapsid IgG, IgM spike), Qualitative
Replacement Soft Code: UNCMS
Replacement Quest Code: 39749
Replacement Quest Name: SARS-CoV-2 Antibody (IgG), Nucleocapsid, Qualitative
Preferred Specimen: 1 mL serum (0.5 mL minimum)
Stability: Refrigerated – 7 days
Transport: Refrigerated

2434 Interstate Plaza Drive, Hammond, IN 46324 | www. AlvernoLabs.com | 800-937-5521

Quest Test Updates: Microsporidia Exam
July 22, 2024

Effective July 22, 2024, Quest no longer accepts urine, CSF, bronchoalveolar lavage, or corneal scrapings as specimens for microsporidia exam. The only acceptable specimens are stool and duodenal aspirates. Please see table below for additional details.

Soft Test	Quest Test	Acceptable Specimens	Unacceptable Specimens
MICEX	5676	**Preferred:** 5g or 5mL stool **Alternative:** Duodenal aspirate **For Both:** Submit in 10% formalin container or Total-Fix ® transport vial	Urine CSF BAL Corneal Srapings

Quest Test Updates: Borrelia Species by RT-PCR, Qualitative
July 29, 2024

Effective July 29, 2024, Quest no longer accepts whole blood collected in ACD (yellow-top) tubes for qualitative assessment of Borrelia species by RT-PCR. Please see below for additional details.

Soft Code: LYPCR
Quest Code: 15777
Preferred Specimen: 1 mL (0.5 mL minimum) whole blood collected in EDTA (lavender-top) tube or synovial fluid or CSF collected in a sterile, leak-proof container
Other Acceptable Specimens: None
Patient Preparation: None
Stability: Refrigerated – 7 days
Transport: Refrigerated

Pre-Analytical Test Information: Creatinine Clearance & 24h Urine Testing

July 2024

When orders are placed for Creatinine Clearance, Urine or for any specimens where 24h urine specimens are collected, it is imperative that pre-analytical variables are entered upon order entry in a standardized manner. Please see below for full details. **If pre-analytical variables are not entered using this format, an incorrect result may be reported.**

Variable	Unit of Measure
Patient height	Inches
Patient weight	Pounds
Total volume for 24h urine	Milliliters (mL)

Only whole numbers should be entered. Do not enter any punctuation or letters.

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.

Fecal Culture Ordering Update
August 30, 2024

Effective Friday, August 30, 2024, Alverno Laboratories discontinued 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 replaced 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

2434 Interstate Plaza Drive, Hammond, IN 46324 | www. AlvernoLabs.com | 800-937-5521

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. Please see the table below for details.

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
August 2024

Quest Diagnostics is 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 replaced the previous performing lab and resulted 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

Quest Test Update: Amylase Isoenzyme
August 26, 2024

Effective 8/26/2024, Quest will no longer accept serum specimens (SST tube) for amylase isoenzyme testing. Please see below for additional details.

Soft Code: AMYIS
Quest Code: 845
Preferred Specimen: 1 mL (0.5 mL minimum) plasma collected in a lithium heparin (green-top) tube
Other Acceptable Specimens: Plasma collected in sodium heparin (green-top) or EDTA (lavender-top) tube
Stability: Refrigerated – 14 days
Transport: Refrigerated

HPV Rectal Ordering Clarification
September 2024

Alverno Laboratories recently announced that we will be replacing the testing for rectal HPV molecular testing offered through Quest Diagnostics to include a more comprehensive assessment of HPV nucleic acids.

To further clarify:
- Test HPVRE will be replacing HPVAR as the *orderable test.*
- However, HPVAR will auto-reflex if HPVRE is positive. Please see the table below for additional details.

Soft Test Code	Quest Test Code	Test Name	Note
HPVAR	**92807**	**HPV Genotypes 16, 18/45, Anal-Rectal**	• **Is not individually orderable** • **Will reflex automatically if HPVRE is positive**
HPVRE	**92810**	**HPV mRNA E6/E7, Rectal with Reflex to Genotypes 16, 18/45**	• **Individually orderable** • **If positive, HPVAR will auto-reflex.**

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.

Clarification of Bile Acid Testing

September 2024

Alverno Laboratories offers 3 distinct tests for Bile Acid testing via Quest Diagnostics. *Importantly, for pregnant patients Soft code BILAC can be used to screen for obstetric cholestasis. For a more comprehensive test for pregnant patients, including fractionated and total bile acids, consider Soft code BILEP.* Please see below for additional details. Full details can be found in the Alverno Collection Manual.

Soft Test Code	Quest Test Code	Test Name	Methodology	Expected TAT from Receipt at Alverno Core Lab	Note
BILAC	14801	Bile Acids, Total, Enzymatic	Enzymatic	2-4 days	Can be used to ***screen*** pregnant women for obstetric cholestasis.
BILEP	19546	Bile Acids, Fractionated and Total, Pregnancy	Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry	7-9 days	Reference range specific for pregnant patients.
BILFT	116992	Bile Acids, Fractionated and Total	Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry	7-9 days	