

# Test Bulletin



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.**



# Test Bulletin



## 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 HPVVAR. **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 HPVVAR as the *orderable test*. HPVVAR will auto-reflex if HPVRE is positive. **See page 11 for details.**



# Test Bulletin



## 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 12 for details.*

## 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

## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### 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	<b>Preferred:</b> 5g or 5mL stool  <b>Alternative:</b> Duodenal aspirate  <b>For Both:</b> Submit in 10% formalin container or Total-Fix® transport vial	Urine CSF BAL Corneal Scrapings

### 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.**

## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### 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.

## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### 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 HPVVAR.** 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



## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### 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.

PCR 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Swabs in BD UTM (universal transport media)</li><li>CSF or bronchial wash in sterile container only</li></ul>
PHS12	34257	Quest	HSV-1/2 Subtype by PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pleural fluid, amniotic fluid, pericardial fluid, or vitreous fluid in a sterile container</li><li>Serum (SST), EDTA whole blood, EDTA plasma</li></ul>

### 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

## UTILIZATION GUIDES

### 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 HPVVAR as the *orderable test*.
- However, HPVVAR 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is not individually orderable</li><li>• Will reflex automatically if HPVRE is positive</li></ul>
HPVRE	92810	HPV mRNA E6/E7, Rectal with Reflex to Genotypes 16, 18/45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individually orderable</li><li>• If positive, HPVVAR will auto-reflex.</li></ul>

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 <b>screen</b> 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	