



Laboratory Communiqué

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The Laboratory Communiqué is a quarterly publication released by Billings Clinic Laboratory Services as an informational tool for medical staff and laboratorians.

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Blood Bank Department

PRT Platelets

Billings Clinic Blood Bank began stocking Psoralen Treated Platelets on November 15th, 2020. Psoralen Treated Platelets are platelets that have undergone Pathogen Reduction Technology (PRT) to crosslink and inactivate nucleic acid. This in turn blocks replication of viruses, bacteria, and parasites, rendering them and leukocytes inactive. Currently, PRT platelets make up 70% of our overall platelet inventory and are delivered three times per week.

Whole Blood Product

In alignment with our growing Trauma program, on December 1st, 2020 Billings Clinic became the first and only hospital in Montana to provide whole blood to trauma patients. One unit of whole blood contains red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. When available, whole blood will be used on trauma patients that are female (age 50 and older) and all males. Currently, 4 units of O Positive whole blood are delivered every 14 days.

Hematology Department

Anticardiolipin Panel Clarification

The Anti-Cardiolipin Panel includes the following 4 assays:

- aCL, IgG
- aCL IgM
- β_2 GP-1, IgG
- β_2 GP-1, IgM

Frequently we have the β_2 GP-1 assays ordered with the Anti-Cardiolipin Panel which duplicates those two assays and necessitates the cancellation of the duplicate β_2 GP-1 assays. To eliminate an additional blood draw sample and duplicate testing/reporting, please be aware of the aCL Panel components above when ordering the aCL Panel.



Laboratory Services
Contact Us

(406) 657-4060
(866) 232-2522

Director/Pathologist:
Jeffrey Smith, MD

Lab Director:
Mark Lubbers, MT ASCP

Lab Manager
Rebecca Schulz
Extension 4861

Technical Consultant:
Joni Gilstrap, MT ASCP
Extension 4046

Supervisor
Heather Verbeck
Extension 6409

Supervisor
Miranda Raschkow MT ASCP
Extension 4862

**Laboratory Marketing
Coordinator**
Jena DeVries
Extension 4888

TEG 6s Assays

Going Live tentatively in March will be two new TEG 6s cartridge assays. The first one will be a new Platelet Mapping cartridge that will include both ADP and AA (arachidonic acid). This will replace the current Platelet Mapping Assay with ADP only.

The second assay will be in addition to our current TEG 6s Global Hemostasis Assay which does not include a Ly30 (Lysis) parameter. The new assay will be called TEG 6s Trauma Assay with Ly30. It can be used to assess clinical conditions in a trauma setting to assess hemorrhage or thrombosis conditions.

More information and updates on these two new assays will follow as we near a Go-Live.

Chemistry Department

Reference Range Change

The Reference Range has been updated for these two tests: Protein, Urine Random and Protein, Urine due to a Siemens reagent change.

Previous Range:	New Range:
6.8 – 11.8 mg/dL	1.0 – 14.0 mg/dL

New In-House Tacrolimus Assay Coming

Coming in February will be a Tacrolimus Assay using EDTA whole blood and performed on the Siemens Atellica Instrument. Future information on the assay will be furnished in a New Test Letter and by email to the providers.

For more information about Billings Clinic Laboratory please call (406) 657-4060.
www.billingsclinic.com

7010



2800 Tenth Avenue North
P.O. Box 37000
Billings, Montana 59107-7000

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