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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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CSF Cell Counts

In February, we will make a change to our method of performing CSF cell counts. Our current methods have been dependent on the volume of CSF received for testing. If the specified tube for the cell count contains greater than 1 mL of CSF we are able to run the CSF on the AUWI analyzer for an automated cell count. This is a quick and precise method but it does use almost the entire 1 mL volume which is not always desirable. If the tube contains less than 1 mL CSF we will perform a manual hemocytometer cell count. Although the manual method is the reference method, it requires highly trained technologists, is very time consuming and is labor intensive.

Our new GloCyte instrument will standardize our 2 methods for CSF cell counts regardless of the volume of CSF submitted to the laboratory.



The GloCyte delivers highly accurate and precise TNC (Total Nucleated Cells) and RBC results using a novel combination of fluorescence technology, highly specific reagents and an intelligent counting algorithm. Here are some of the benefits of moving to the GloCyte analyzer:

- Quick assay procedure generates results with only 30µL of CSF per test.
- The software automatically calculates the TNC and RBC results in cells/µL.
- No mandatory background checks are required between samples.
- Disposable test cartridges are used so there is no carryover



Billings Clinic

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between samples and infectious specimens can be processed without worry.

- When dilution is necessary, the software guidance recommends the appropriate dilution.
- Total test time for 1-2 specimens is under 5 minutes if no further dilution is needed.
- Linearity for TNC: 0-7,438 cells/ μ L and RBC: 0-615,644 cells/ μ L
- Quality control features include Levey-Jennings charts, password protection and an audit table.

The GloCyte was installed January 30th and will be implemented in February once all validation studies have been completed.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 22-28, 2018, is an annual celebration of medical laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in health care and patient advocacy!

Reference Range Change

PTH, intact

The reference range for PTH, Intact was changed this 1-26-2018 due to a reagent methodology upgrade. Please see the changes below:

Old reference range: 12.4 – 76.8 pg/mL

New reference range: 18.5 – 88.0 pg/mL

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