



# 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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## Pathology Department Update



We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Luke Plumier has joined our Pathology Department and has provided his services for about 4 months already.

Dr. Plumier grew up in central Illinois. He received his undergraduate degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He completed medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, graduating in 2013. He went on to complete his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Colorado, after which he completed a fellowship in surgical pathology at the University of Washington and a fellowship in Transfusion Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. We are particularly excited to be adding his expertise in Transfusion Medicine to our group, but he is also an excellent anatomic and clinical pathologist. Outside of medicine his interests include hiking, biking, skiing, and enjoying the wonderful outdoor opportunities Montana has to offer.

## Chemistry Department Update

Replacement of our current Siemens Vista 1500s and Centaur will occur early next year with the implementation of 2 Siemens Attelica® CH 930 / IM 1300 platforms. Replacement of our current system was necessitated by our increased client volume, increased workload and the plan by Siemens to “sun-down” those models in the future. Go-Live is tentatively set for March 2020.

Some of the added benefits of the new instrumentation are:

- Connection to our existing APTIO® track and automation with minimal re-configuration.
- High Productivity of up to 220 tests/hour for the IM 1300 immunology analyzer and up to 1800 tests/hour for the CH 930 chemistry analyzer.
- Intelligent scheduling software that manages samples
- Automated scheduling and delivery of controls and calibrators
- Multi-camera vision system with 360° view to reduce bar-code reading errors
- Service innovations to maintain system operation at peak performance
- Broad and expanding menu across disease states



In addition to our current menu, four new assays will be implemented and brought in-house versus being sent out. They are:

1. Cyclosporin
2. Tacrolimus
3. TnIH (High-Sensitivity Troponin)
4. TSH3-UL (Ultra Low TSH)

After the implementation of these, we will plan the implementation of a Keppra assay.

During this implementation process, the chemistry department staff will have to manually load specimens rather than the track system delivering the samples. Staffing will be increased to handle this process and prevent delays in reporting. Updates on the implementation process will be communicated in the next Laboratory Communique.

## Billings Clinic Laboratory Services Fall Education Conference

- When: Friday, November 1, 2019  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Where: Billings Clinic Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center, Rooms B/D
- 10:00-11:00 **The ABCs of ABGs: A Stepwise Approach for the Interpretation of ABGs** presented by Jim Aguanno, PhD Senior Clinical Specialist  
*Siemens Healthineers*
- 11:00-12:00 **Transfusion Service Strategies for Optimizing Blood Supply and Maintaining Patient Safety** presented by Luke Plumier, MD  
*Billings Clinic*
- 12:00-1:00 **Q & A Luncheon** with the Billings Clinic Pathologists
- 1:00-2:00 **Candida auris: Emerging Pathogen and Infection Control Perspectives** presented by Tsun Sheng N Ku, MD  
*Billings Clinic*
- 2:00-3:00 **Organizational Accountability and Engagement: How to Get Things Done in a Pathology World** presented by Parker Marquardt, PA (ASCP)  
*Billings Clinic*
- 3:00-4:00 **Are You Out of Focus** presented by Jewell Zweegman, LMT, MR, WLS  
*Billings Clinic*



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## Billings Clinic West End Laboratory Update

### Neonate Bilirubin, Plasma WE

Effective October 21<sup>st</sup>, Neonate Total Bilirubin was implemented at this branch site only. The Advanced® BR2 Bilirubin Stat-Analyzer™ system provides fast, accurate results for the total bilirubin level in neonates. It determines the total bilirubin by spectrophotometric analysis.

Specimen:	Plasma (Green Microtainer)
Sample Size:	30µL
Test Code:	BC#7430
CPT Code:	82247
LOINC Code:	1975-2

Reference Range:	Age Dependent
0.0 – 7.9 mg/dL	0 – 24 hours
0.0 – 11.4 mg/dL	24 hours – 2 days
0.0 – 11.9 mg/dL	2 days – 5 days
0.0 – 1.1 mg/dL	5 days – 1 year

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