



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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CSF Cell Counts

In May 2014 the Siemens AUWI was implemented for automated urinalysis. In February 2016 we added CSF Cell Counts to the AUWI using the Sysmex UF-1000i flow cytometer side of the instrument. This improved both workflow and turn-around-time and also eased the manual workload for the technical staff previously performing all CSF cell counts using a microscope and hemocytometer. In order to process a CSF specimen through the UF1000i flow cytometer of the AUWI we need a minimum of 1 ml of CSF in the appropriate tube. In most instances, this will be CSF tube #4 or the last tube collected. The number of tubes needing a cell count will depend on the type of patient being seen and where. Our current specimen requirements are:

Specimen:

- A. CSF in sterile collection container
 1. CSF specimens should be collected into 4 separate allotments with tubes labeled in order of collection.
 - a. Tube 1 – saved for possible cell counts to help distinguish a traumatic tap from a subarachnoid hemorrhage
 - b. Tube 2 – used for chemistry and immunological studies
 - c. Tube 3 – used for microbiology
 - d. Tube 4 – used for routine cell counts, differential and cytology
 2. Two cell counts will be performed on all ER CSF specimens; Tube #1 and Tube #4 if 4 tubes are received or Tube #1 and the last tube collected for the 2 cell counts when less than 4 tubes are collected.
- B. CSF from shunt – sterile urine collection cup
- C. CSF from the NICU will have the testing written on the tubes. Follow the testing instructions as ordered on each tube.

A cytospin preparation will be prepared on all CSF samples and reviewed. If the UF1000i results do not correlate with the stained cytospin slide, a manual CSF Cell Count will be performed. WBCs and RBCs are reported for both methods in cells/mm³. For CSF nucleated cell counts >5 cells/mm³, a differential will be ordered and performed.

Meetings

AACC Meeting and Expo

As the leading event for laboratory medicine worldwide, the 68th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo is the place where breakthrough innovations in clinical testing and patient care are introduced to the healthcare world. It will be



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held July 31-August 4 in Philadelphia, PA. This is where our laboratory staff can learn about new products, instrumentation and new cutting edge diagnostic technology. The Clinical Lab Expo features more than 700 exhibiting companies with over 2,000 booths. During the AACC Meeting, educational sessions are available to stay abreast of the needs of a changing field and take home practical information on methodologies, management and emerging issues. We have 6 staff members attending this year.

ASCLS Annual Meetings

The 84th meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science will also be held August 1-4 in conjunction with the AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Exp. ASCLS is a national organization representing Medical Laboratory Scientists in the United States. Members of ASCLS are employed in hospital and reference laboratories, industry, research, education and public health laboratories.

ASCLS Recognition

This year for the Annual ASCLS Meeting in Philadelphia, we have two of our laboratory staff honored with awards.

Student Travel Grant

Jessica Stellingwerf, who is an evening laboratory aide, has been selected as one of 6 ASCLS student members provided with a grant for assistance with travel expenses to the Annual ASCLS Meeting in Philadelphia. Thanks to the generosity of Beckman Coulter, \$5000 was available to the six students attending the Annual ASCLS Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo to be held August 1-4.

ASCLS Voice Under 40

Sadie Arnold, who is an evening Medical Laboratory Scientist, will be honored at the Annual ASCLS Meeting in Philadelphia for her exceptional commitment to her professional organization, the laboratory profession and her community at large at a young age in her professional career. The Voices spotlight recognizes those individuals less than 40 years old. Sadie has served as Montana's Student Liaison, Region VIII Secretary, Montana Society Bylaws Chair and Montana Society Secretary. She has also represented Montana professionals at the National meeting as a delegate and at the Legislative Symposium in Washington D.C.

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