



Laboratory Communiqué

Volume 9 , Number 3

July 2015

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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Test Clarification

Path Reviews, QA versus Physician ordered

A review of the peripheral blood smear by a pathologist is an important and essential component in both clinical and laboratory settings. This practice can result in a more timely diagnosis, better-quality laboratory data, and improved patient management.

Laboratory Services has two options for a Path Review, 1) Path Review, QA and 2) Path Review, Physician Ordered. There are significant differences between the two such as who can order each and which has a charge associated with it.

Path Review, QA

This can be ordered by an in-house technologist or an outlying client's technical staff as a "Quality" review of a peripheral smear originating from a manual differential or smear review. The Pathologist's Review comments will be entered into Cerner. There is no additional charge to the patient.

The Criteria for a Path Review QA:

1. Pancytopenia
2. Abnormal inclusions in any cell type, including parasites
3. WBC > 40,000/ml
4. Absolute Lymphocytosis > 5000 mm³
5. Lymphocytes > 80 %
6. Monocytes > 3000 mm³
7. Eosinophils > 20 %
8. Absolute basophilia (>200 mm³)
9. Variant lymphs >15 %
10. Metamyelocytes + Myelocytes >5%
11. Promyelocytes
12. Abnormal cells, including blasts, abnormal lymphoid cells, unidentified cells, dysplastic cells of any lineage and megakaryocytes
13. Abnormal red cell indices including nRBC's, rouleaux, schistocytes, spherocytes, and marked abnormal MCV or RDW



Billings Clinic

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Specimen and Information Requirements:

1. CBC results or printout
2. Clinical information, i.e.: patient history, diagnosis or DX codes
3. 2 well-made unstained blood smears
4. Original EDTA specimen tube

NOTE:

- If the patient has had a Pathologist Review performed within the last 6 months and the slide is consistent with the previous Path Review, a comment will be placed in Cerner that states: “Please refer to prior Path Review from date_____.”
- Path Reviews must be seen by a Pathologist every 6 months unless there is a significant change, and then they will be reviewed sooner.

Path Review, Physician Ordered

This is available to “physicians only” and is for instances when the physician specifically wants a blood smear reviewed by a Pathologist. This request is processed as a histology request incurring the appropriate charges. A dictated pathology report will be returned to the requesting physician.

In addition to the requirements for a Path Review QA we must have the patient billing information.

Test Discontinued

Clostridium *difficile* Toxin A + B, stool

Effective June 3, 2015, this test was discontinued. The only *C. difficile* testing that will be available to order is the CDIFF, GDH. A positive GDH test will reflex to the *C. difficile*, PCR. The GDH assay was featured in the April 2015 issue of the Laboratory Communiqué.

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

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