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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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Panther

New Instrument Plans

Coming soon to Billings Clinic Laboratory is a new molecular platform from Hologic/GenProbe called the Panther. This is a random access, fully automated molecular platform that allows continuous loading of samples and reagents. We will initially use the Panther system to perform the testing for the common sexually transmitted infections *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using the Aptima Combo 2 assay. The Panther will fully automate all our NG/CT testing for urine, genital and ThinPrep samples. Installation of the Panther and our staff training is currently scheduled for the end of April with a Go-Live date sometime in May. Plans for additional testing on this platform will be HPV which is currently waiting for FDA approval.



Test Updates

Rubella, IgG

Testosterone

AFP

Hepatitis A Total Ab.

Reference Range Changes

Protime

Blood Lead

Test Updates

Abbott Laboratories is phasing out their AxSYM Immunoassay instrument and discontinuing the production of all reagent kits for that instrument. This necessitated moving the following four assays to other instruments in our laboratory.

Rubella, IgG

This test has already been moved to the DiaSorin Liaison Instrument. This is the same EIA instrument performing our 25-OH Vitamin D assay. Specimen requirements have changed from a green gel tube (plasma) to a red gel tube (serum). Reporting will continue to be Negative, Equivocal or Positive.

AFP

This test is moving to the Abbott Architect Instrument/Track System effective 4-24-13. The specimen requirement for this test has not changed. Either a green top or a red top tube is acceptable. The change in Reference Range is:

New Range: <10.9 ng/dL

Old Range: 0-6 ng/dL

Testosterone

This test is also moving to the Abbott Architect Instrument/Track System effective 4-24-13. The specimen requirement for this test will change to serum only (red top). The change in Reference Ranges are:

Male

New Range: 47.0-1020.4 ng/dL Old Range: 195-1138 ng/dL

Female

New Range: 7.2-79.3 ng/dL Old Range: 5-73 ng/dL

Hepatitis A Virus, Total Antibody

This test is returning to an ELISA test format performed on the DiaSorin ETI-MAX. The specimen requirement will not change and is serum only. This change will occur late April.

Meetings

ASCLS Spring Meeting

Laboratory Week

April 22-26, 2013

Reference Range Updates

Protime

The reference range for the Protime has been changed due to a new lot of reagent.

New Range: 9.8-11.6 sec. Old Range: 9.8-11.3 sec.

Blood Lead

The reference range for Lead has been lowered to <5 µg/dL due to new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The reference level was reduced when evidence showed that even low doses of lead exposure (≤10 µg/dL) can adversely affect many systems in the body leading to learning and behavioral problems and permanent damage to organs. The population at the greatest risk includes children under the age of 6, living at or below the poverty line, in housing built prior to the ban of lead-based home paint in 1978.

MEETINGS

ASCLS-MT

The ASCLS annual spring conference is taking place on April 17-20 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. ASCLS-Montana is a constituent society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). It is one of five states in ASCLS Region VIII, which also includes Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming societies.

The Mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in healthcare through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.

Program Highlights

- ❖ Keynote: *Quality Control for Your Attitude-Beyond Service With a Smile* by Tim Dumas
- ❖ Virology by Dr Heinz Feldman, Rocky Mountain Laboratories
- ❖ ASCLS Updates by J.R. Constance, ASCLS President Elect
- ❖ *Digital Cell Morphology with Case Studies* by Scott Dunbar, Seimens/Cellavision



Billings Clinic

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- ❖ Patient Safety by Susan Morris, ASCLS Region VIII Director
- ❖ *Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia/What’s Important to Know* by Dr Paul Eastvold, American Red Cross
- ❖ *New Paradigms in Quality Control - Especially for POC* by Dr. Thomas Koshy, Alere
- ❖ Hepatitis C and Exotic Diseases by Dr Don Skillman, Helena
- ❖ *HITECH and ACA new “coding”* by Ginger Baker, BITAK
- ❖ *Diagnostic Testing for Multiple Myeloma* by Dr. Ann Sherwood, The Binding Site
- ❖ Acute Nephrotic Syndrome by Dr. Robert LaClair

LABORATORY WEEK

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is April 22-26. This week is an annual celebration of the laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care.

ASCP will celebrate 90 years of providing excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, laboratory professionals, and pathologists across the globe. We want to recognize the contributions of the more than 300,000 medical laboratory professionals around the country who perform and interpret more than 10 billion laboratory tests in the US every year.

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