

Laboratory Services Update

11/4/16

There are a number of upcoming changes in available profiles, reference ranges and some new molecular tests that will soon become available.

1. The reference range for adult male testosterone levels is being changed to bring us into line with our reference laboratory and data available from current Chemistry reference books. The new range for males age 20 and over will be: 260 – 1,000 ng/dL
2. A lipid panel with a reflex to a direct LDL will be available starting December 7. Instead of a calculated LDL, this will allow providers to obtain an LDL, when the patient has elevated triglycerides that precludes the calculated LDL from being provided. This is from a concern brought to us by the PHO Compliance Committee. After a compliance review and discussion with the Laboratory Medical Director, Dr. Juan Gonzalez, this seems to be a practical approach to a community health concern.
3. Over the next few months SIH Laboratory Services will be implementing several new and exciting molecular tests. All Film Array testing will be performed at the Herrin Hospital Laboratory. Run time for these tests will be about 1 hour, so results should be available within 2-4 hours of collection. The Meningitis Panel will be the first to go live and is scheduled to be in production on November 2, followed by the Respiratory Panel on November 9. These tests will include:
 - a. Meningitis/Encephalitis Testing – the laboratory will be able to screen for viral and bacterial meningitis involving 14 common pathogens, including E. coli, H. influenza, Neisseria and HSV. Specimen – CSF.
 - b. Respiratory Pathogens – the profile includes several strains of Coronavirus, Influenza, Parainfluenza, RSV and several bacterial pathogens. Overall, the panel will test for 20 different respiratory pathogens. Specimen – NP Swab
 - c. Blood Culture Identification Panel – tests for 24 pathogens and 3 antibiotic resistance genes (mecA, vanA/B and KPC). Specimen – Positive Blood Culture. This panel is projected to go live on December 7.
 - d. Gastrointestinal Panel – tests for 22 different viruses, bacteria and parasites. Specimen - Stool in Cary Blair transport media. Projected for early 2017.
4. SIH Laboratory Information is available online at SIH.NET>Services>Laboratory Services or at <https://www.testmenu.com/SIH>. Information available includes:
 - a. A complete compendium of test information available from SIH and our reference laboratory partner, ARUP.
 - b. All Laboratory Outpatient Locations, and their hours of operation.
 - c. Specimen collection information, printable in a PDF format.

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5. Not to be confused our new Film Array profiles, we will also be implementing a new Influenza A&B test that will replace the current screening test used in the hospital laboratories. We have long known that the current test has limitations with respect to sensitivity...we miss a lot of patients who truly do have flu A or B. The new test, a 15 minute molecular assay, will be available at all 3 hospital labs and at the PCG Laboratory in Harrisburg by the first week in December, if not sooner.

For questions about any of these items, please feel free to contact any of our laboratory managers, medical director or myself. Our contact information is below.

Steve Howerton
System Laboratory Director
618-549-0721 x65757
Steve.Howerton@sih.net

Juan Gonzalez, MD
Laboratory Medical Director
Juan.Gonzalez@sih.net

Bridgette Johnson
MHC Laboratory Manager
618-549-0721 x64543
Bridgette.Johnson@sih.net

Diana Biggs
HH Laboratory Manager
618-942-2171 x35171
Diana.Biggs@sih.net

Greg Vaughn
SJM Laboratory
618-684-3156 x55541
Greg.Vaughn@sih.net

Tracy Hawk
SIH Laboratory Services Outreach Manager
618-997-5652 x68403
Tracy.Hawk@sih.net