



Danbury Hospital  
**Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine**  
*Technically Speaking*

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*C. S. Guidess, Editor*

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### **COMING SOON**

The Cytology section of the laboratory announces the pending availability of TriPath's SurePath technology for PAP testing. Validation of the method is in progress and implementation is projected late in 2006. As a "go live" date approaches, further information will be available via the laboratory Client Service Representative and the Technically Speaking newsletter.

### **FAX NUMBERS CHANGE**

Please use FAX numbers 739-7265 to contact the laboratory and 739-8069 to contact the Testing Center.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

Test Center appointments for blood drawing and EKG testing may be made by calling 739-7731. Effective immediately, Glucose Tolerance Testing is by appointment only - this includes 1 hour OB Glucose testing.

### **INSURANCE REMINDERS**

- Danbury Hospital continues to accept UnitedHealth insurance. Effective January 1, 2007, United Health will implement a national laboratory contract with Laboratory Corporation of America. However, in many regions of the country, the United Healthcare's laboratory network will continue to include a number of regional and local laboratory service providers. Danbury Hospital laboratory is one of those providers. Please contact the laboratory Client Service Representative at 203-739-7800 with questions.
- Insurance companies now require a physician signature on orders for lab tests. When ordering a lab test on a Danbury Hospital requisition, space is provided for this purpose in the upper right hand corner of the requisition.

# **SERVICE EXCELLENCE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MICROBIOLOGY LAB**

Laura Ross, MS, MT (ASCP)

## **Reporting of Urine Gram Stains**

Traditionally, the Microbiology section performed gram stains on all urines submitted for culture from the Emergency Department and on all inpatients. Based on current information regarding patient management, this test has been determined to be of little clinical value in most cases, and will therefore be discontinued as a routine procedure effective August 22, 2006. A physician may order a gram stain on a urine at any time he/she feels the results would be helpful in managing the patient.

## **Parasitology**

In an effort to provide optimal patient care testing, while decreasing costs to the patient and improving turn around time, the Microbiology section will implement changes in parasitology testing. Currently, stools submitted for ova and parasite examination have a turn around time of 48-72 hours for a final report. In the patient population surrounding Danbury Hospital, the most common parasites recovered are Giardia and Cryptosporidia. Less than 1% of stool specimens submitted to the laboratory for ova and parasite exam yield any other parasites, and those that are recovered, are almost exclusively non-pathogenic protozoa.

As of December 1, 2006, when a physician orders an ova and parasite test, a screen will be performed using EIA (enzyme immunoassay) methodology. The test will be antigen specific for Giardia and Cryptosporidia. Stools can be submitted fresh (refrigerated for up to 48 hours) or in a formalin preservative or modified Cary Blair preservative. Results will be available within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Results on specimens received over the weekend, will be available on Monday.

If a complete ova and parasite examination is requested, the physician must indicate on the requisition that the patient has had recent travel outside of the United States, or that the patient has recently moved to the US from a foreign country where other parasites may be endemic. For other circumstances, the physician must contact the Medical Director of the Microbiology section before a complete ova and parasite exam will be performed.

## **Respiratory Virus Season**

The following specimen types and containers are acceptable for testing for respiratory viruses:

- Rapid influenzae A and B- throat (preferred) or nasal swab submitted in M4 or M4RT transport media. Please note this same specimen can also be used for a viral culture if the rapid test is negative and the physician deems a culture would be clinically useful.
- Rapid RSV- nasopharynx only-minutip culturette preferably submitted in M4 or M4RT transport media. Minitip culturettes may be submitted without transport media. However, a second specimen would be needed if viral culture is warranted.

All specimens submitted for viral testing should be transported as soon as possible or refrigerated for up to 48 hours.

Please contact Dr. Jack Wolk, Medical Director of the Microbiology Lab at x-7551 or the Microbiology Lab directly at x -7305 for further information.