DANBURY HOSPITAL
A Higher Level of Care

Technically Speaking

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Department of Pathology
& Laboratory Medicine

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Laboratory Supports Institution Goal to Report Results on Test Requests for 6AM Collection by 8AM:

An expansion of the "Early Discharge" program strives to report test results prior to 8AM on in-patient orders placed for collection at 6AM. To achieve this goal, the laboratory has implemented creative initiatives that would ensure result release by 8AM. This will enable physicians to have access to data to make clinical decisions earlier in the day. Initiatives included:

- Adjusting start times (from 6AM or 7AM) for phlebotomy staff.
- Conveyors (runners) go to floors at designated times to return collected specimens.
- All nurse collects/AM blood draws are handled as stat;

Outcomes: Focusing on tests commonly required (Chem 6,Chem 7, CBC, INR, APTT, ionized calcium, ABGs, LFTs, CK, BNP, etc), the laboratory monitors outcomes daily to determine lab's success. Currently, the laboratory is reporting results for tests ordered by 6AM prior to 8AM more than 95% of the time. Identified outliers to date are due to unavoidable patient or equipment issues. NOTE: Tests that require more complicated, time consuming analysis or are not performed on a daily basis are not included in this initiative. Examples of these tests include tumor markers, lyme Babesia and Ehrlichia testing, factor assays and tests performed by ELISA, flow cytometry, molecular or electrophoresis technology.

"Previous issues of Technically Speaking can be accessed at http://www.danburyhospital.org/About-Us/Publications/Technically-Speaking.aspx

Laboratory Updates/Service Excellence Initiatives

D-dimer: in order to serve our front line patient care departments, D-dimer testing has been moved to the Siemens CA1500. Turn around time for this test has decreased from 1 hour to 15 minutes. Shorter analysis time will help clinicians to rule out deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism sooner. For questions regarding the D-dimer test, please contact Dr. Leonel Edwards at 203-739-7527.

RBC Folate Test, used to diagnose folic acid deficiency, more closely reflects tissue stores than the serum folate test. In order to decrease turn around time of test results to clinicians, this test will be performed in-house on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Specimen requirement**: EDTA whole blood (lavender stoppered tube)**. Reference range: 280-791 ng/mL RBC.** Questions regarding this test and its uses may be directed to Dr. Salvador Sena at 203-739-7622.

HPV Testing Frequency Update:

Effective immediately, HPV testing will occur daily except for Saturday and Monday. This improved TAT will enable the laboratory to release PAP and HPV results sooner to ensure a higher level of patient satisfaction. Questions regarding the HPV test may be directed to Dr. Leonel Edwards at 203-739-7527.

FAX Number Changed: effective immediately the FAX number for the main laboratory is 203-739-1894.

Patient Service Center at 41 Germantown Rd has moved across the hall. Phone/FAX numbers are unchanged. Phone: 203-739-3345; FAX: 203-739-3346.

New Orderable, BhCG Reflex, is Available:

For serum tests only, clinicians now have the option to reflex to a quantitative BhCG when the result of the serum pregnancy is positive or borderline. Use ordering mnemonic “Beta hCG Qualitative Reflex”.

N. gonorrhoeae (GC)/Chlamydia Testing:

Testing for GC and Chlamydia is now performed from urine and PAP Thin Prep samples in addition to the existing genital sources. Chlamydia can no longer be performed on ocular samples. Urine samples may be submitted in sterile urine collection containers within 12 hours of collection and should be transported at 2 - 30˚C. Please contact Microbiology at 203-739-7305 for genital collection kits. Questions may be forwarded to Dr. Jessica Dodge at 203-739-7034.

New cytology requisitions that include this test, are available by contacting the Cytology section at 203-739-7846.

New Phlebotomy Drawing Station Information Pads: location, phone number and name of the drawing station are listed on each pad. The information sheets can be given to patients who need to schedule bloodwork. To order your information pads call Sandi Smith, Client Service Representative at V-203-739-7800 or E-Mail – Sandra.smith@danhosp.org