

Laboratory News

Atlas Test Updates...

Effective on 4/23/2020:

- 1) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code A2PI and turned off obsolete MAYO test code APSM.

Effective on 3/30/2020:

- 1) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code PCPDS and turned off obsolete MAYO test code PCPDF.
- 2) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on reflex MAYO test code CSPCF (only orderable by Mayo Clinic personnel after PCPDS has been performed).
- 3) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code FFX3F and turned off obsolete MAYO test code FF13F.

Effective on 3/25/2020:

- 1) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned off MAYO test code EBF.

Effective on 3/18/2020:

- 1) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code ETGL.
- 2) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code BHCG-TUMOR.
- 3) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code FBMO and turned off MAYO test code FBLAS.
- 4) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code FBMU and turned off MAYO test code FBLAS.
- 5) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned on MAYO test code FBMS and turned off MAYO test code FBLAS.

Effective on 3/6/2020:

- 1) OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory turned off MAYO test code VRESP.

OSF Outreach Hours...

Due to COVID-19, and OSF's Mandatory Mission Partner furloughs, the OSF Outreach team at Saint Francis Medical Center will be rotating their Mission Partners' weeks off in the coming weeks.

If you need to get ahold of your Clinical Representative (or an Atlas IT Analyst) and are having trouble getting through, it may be that your Clinical Representative is out of the office. Please contact our other Clinical Representative if you are not able to get through to yours:

Raechel Pfahl:	(309) 624-9100	Raechel.A.Pfahl@osfhealthcare.org
Sabrina Mullins:	(309) 624-9144	Sabrina.K.Mullins@osfhealthcare.org
Raymond Rosenberry:	(309) 624-9065	Raymond.E.Rosenberry@osfhealthcare.org
Jeffrey Cover:	(309) 624-2418	Jeffrey.C.Cover@osfhealthcare.org

OSF Courier Services...

Due to COVID-19, the Laboratory Courier Services team at Saint Francis Medical Center has implemented some temporary Courier route reductions due to the reduced testing volume currently being received in the Laboratory. If you have a STAT specimen pick up, have noticed a total elimination of Courier stops at your facility, OR if you find that specimens were not picked up from your lockbox, please call (309) 655-2336 immediately.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding the temporarily adjusted Courier routes, please send an email to SFMC.Lab.CourierServiceInquiries@osfhealthcare.org.

*"Count your blessings —
not your troubles."*

- Dale Carnegie

Contemplating a change in Office Hours...?

If your office is contemplating a change in office hours due to COVID-19, or your office has already implemented restricted office hours, please let your OSF HealthCare Laboratory Clinical Representative know!

You can contact your Clinical Representative with a quick call or by sending an email to them today.



Questions??

If you are an OSF Laboratory Outreach client and you have a billing-related question, please contact OSF's Patient Accounts and Access Center billing department at (309) 683-6750.

The PAAC billing agents will be happy to assist you with your inquiry.

If you have other questions, please contact OSF's Laboratory Customer Support department at (800) 533-6730 and they will direct you to the appropriate Laboratory Mission Partner.

Patient Specimen Centrifugation In-Service...

Centrifugation (or the process of separating patient plasma or serum from the red blood cells), is an important step in the testing of a patient's specimens in the laboratory. The centrifugation process, commonly referred to as "spinning," plays an extremely important role in the viability of patient specimens; and, if not done correctly, can cause patient specimens to be rejected... As an OSF HealthCare client, we provide a centrifuge to provider offices if one is needed for proper specimen centrifugation for patient testing. OSF HealthCare also ensures that the provided centrifuges are maintained (PM'd) annually, or when the unit is in need of immediate repair.

This in-service is meant to review the proper steps in how and when patient specimens should be processed and centrifuged for laboratory testing. If you have further questions after reading this in-service, please contact your OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory Clinical Representative.

What's the difference:

Plasma vs. Serum...

The purpose of centrifuging patient specimens is to separate out the different components of the blood; i.e.- the cells from the serum or plasma. Serum is collected from tubes without anticoagulant and plasma is collected from tubes with anticoagulant (such as EDTA or Heparin).

Tubes that produce Serum:

- Gold tops, Red tops, Marble tops, and Navy tops (w/red & white label)

Tubes that produce Plasma:

- Light Blue (Coag) tops, Mint & Dark Green tops, Lavender tops, Tan tops, Pink tops, Black tops, Navy tops (w/ lavender & white label), and Gray tops



Centrifuge Tube Inserts...

Upon first receiving your centrifuge from OSF, your facility should have also received green and red centrifuge tube inserts. These colored accessories are necessary to properly hold the tubes during the centrifugation process.

The green tube inserts are for the 3 mL specimen tubes that are most commonly drawn and should be the most frequently used. The red tube inserts are only for the tall 5 or 7 mL tubes.

If the 3 mL specimen tubes are placed in the red (5-7 mL) inserts, it can cause the cap to be pulled from the tube, which will contaminate your centrifuge and any other specimens inside. If you use the green (3 mL) inserts for the tall (5-7 mL) tubes, your centrifuge lid will not properly close, causing the opportunity for more broken tubes, or even the unit itself.



Centrifugation Process...

After collecting patient specimens, inverting them the appropriate amount of time (to mix the blood with the tube additives), labeling specimens with **two** correct patient identifiers (in the presence of the patient), and allowing the specimens to rest for the appropriate amount of time, the specimens are ready to be centrifuged.

- 1) Before centrifuging specimens, make sure that all positions within the centrifuge have the proper adapters.
- 2) Ensure that tubes are balanced in the centrifuge before starting the unit.
- 3) Let the centrifuge spin for the entire time (10 minutes). If centrifuge is stopped before time is up, it could adversely affect patient results.
- 4) Once centrifuge has completely stopped moving, the unit safety latch will release and the centrifuge lid will open freely. Once the lid has opened, the specimens can be removed and placed in specimen bags with the appropriate paperwork.
- 5) At this point, the specimens are ready for Courier pick-up and should be stored at the appropriate temperature until Courier arrival.

Balancing a Centrifuge...

Balancing your centrifuge is extremely important!!

If your centrifuge is **not** properly balanced, it can cause the patient specimen tubes to break during the centrifugation process, spilling blood all over the inside of the centrifuge unit and any other specimens present.

If a tube does break, the operator must completely decontaminate the unit before centrifuging any other patient specimens using bleach or the appropriate disinfectant wipes to completely remove all traces of patient blood from the unit. All unbroken specimens must be wiped down and re-labeled as well, before re-centrifuging to ensure that it is an appropriately centrifuged specimen.

**Below is an image of how to properly balance a centrifuge (based on the number of specimens you have).

