



# Monthly Update

OSF  
SYSTEM LABORATORY

May  
2017

## Several new tests are now being performed at the OSF System Laboratory

On May 1st, the OSF System Laboratory began performing several new tests. Following is a summary of the new test offerings:

Free (Calc.) and Total Testosterone is a test that includes Total Testosterone, Sex Hormone Binding Globulin, albumin and a calculated Free Testosterone. All four tests will be resultated and appear on the patient's chart, eliminating the need to order Sex Hormone Binding Globulin separately. Testing will be performed daily with a 24 hour turn-around-time.

Extensive method evaluations were conducted comparing Mayo Medical Laboratory's directly measured Free Testosterone to the calculated method our lab will perform on the Abbott Architect using the Testosterone, Sex Hormone Binding Globulin and Albumin results. These studies show the calculated Free Testosterone compares very well to the directly measured Free Testosterone performed at Mayo for the Adult Male population. At this time, females and children under the age of 18 years require the Mayo test. The Epic ordering code LAB4707, Free (Calc.) and Total Testosterone, has been configured to automatically order the correct test based on the patient's sex and age.

Atlas users, when placing an order, will choose the test that corresponds to the sex and age of the patient. If the patient is a male that is 18 years or older, order OSF lab code FTTST, LAB4679. If the patient is a male that is less than 18 years of age, or a female (of any age), order the Mayo test code TGRP, LAB1927. The system will not allow the order to be placed if the correct test is not selected according to the sex and age of the patient.

Also now being offered in-house is the Sex Hormone Binding Globulin (SHBGL) LAB4677 (Atlas) or LAB4711 (Epic). Although this is included when ordering the Free and Total Testosterone, it can also be ordered as a stand-alone test. It requires a gold top tube and must be centrifuged within 2 hours of collection. This test will also be performed daily with a 24 hour turn-around-time. Send the tube refrigerated or as an aliquot so the serum can be frozen. Specimens that are unspun will be rejected.

Another new offering is the *Helicobacter pylori* stool antigen test. Neither the American College of Gastroenterology, nor the American Gastroenterological Association, now recommends serologic testing (previously performed antibody testing) as the primary means for the diagnosis of active *H. pylori* infections based on:

- 1) Poor Positive Predictive Value (Poor PPV).
- 2) Poor performance characteristics of these assays compared to alternative testing options.
- 3) Serologic testing cannot distinguish between active infections from past infections, or document eradication of the *H. pylori* organism following successful treatment.
- 4) Lack of reimbursement from an ever-increasing number of insurance providers.

Our new test, HPSTL (LAB4800), when resultated as positive, signifies an active infection. Serologic testing only detected an infection and could not differentiate between current active and a past infection. HPSTL has the added advantage that the stool no longer has to be immediately frozen. The new specimen requirements are : Fresh stool specimen, minimum of 5 grams (pea-sized) received in an air-tight container. Sample may be refrigerated at 2-8 degrees C for up to 72 hrs. If the specimen will not reach the lab in 72 hrs, the specimen will need to be frozen at -20 degrees C. Stool specimens received in transport media, mixed with preservatives, or on swabs, will be rejected.

## New Tests or Test Changes

On April 18th, Mayo discontinued FBAUR, Reflex, Buprenorphine confirmation (LAB4634) and replaced it with BUPM, Reflex, Buprenorphine confirmation-Reflex Only Do Not Order (LAB4634).

As of April 26th, only a gold top tube will be accepted for VTMD (Vitamin D) testing. This is due to erroneous results from mint top tubes being jostled after being centrifuged. We will no longer be accepting mint top tubes for VTMD.



## Questions about your bill?

If you are an Outreach lab client and have a billing-related question, please follow the first step, which is to contact our Patient Accounts and Access Center billing department at (309) 683-6750. The PAAC billing agents will be happy to assist you with your inquiry.

### Client Reps:

Deanna Hibbert (309) 624-9138  
Sabrina Mullins (309) 624-9144  
Raechel Pfahl (309) 624-9100

### Marketing Support:

Gregg Simpson (309) 624-3927

### Sales and Marketing Supervisor:

Gordon Koerner (309) 624-9287

## The Provider is responsible for a signed Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN)

It is the responsibility of the provider to make sure an ABN is processed and signed when the diagnosis does not meet medical necessity or if the test falls under National Coverage Determinations (NCD) or Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) for frequency. Medicare reimbursements are limited to items and services that are considered “reasonable and necessary” for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury (and fall within the scope of a Medicare benefit category). This is true even if the patient insists on having the test run. You **MUST** issue an ABN when there is any possibility to expect that Medicare may deny payment if the test is not deemed reasonable and necessary under Medicare Program standards.

For Non-OSF client submitters, the OSF System Laboratory makes every reasonable attempt to assist the ordering provider in denoting tests that fall under NCD/LCD frequency guidelines; Paper submitters...tests are bolded in light green-shaded boxes. Atlas users; if you have selected the option to bill Medicare, logic is built into the system to compare the test to the ICD-10 diagnosis code and will prompt you with options if the ICD-10 code doesn't meet CMS guidelines. It will ask you to change your diagnosis or print an ABN for the patient to sign.

If you believe that a test subject to a frequency limitation exceeds the Medicare Program frequency limits for test ordering, you **MUST** issue an ABN before you draw and order the test. With this requirement, you must evaluate test frequency limits and look up how many times the test was ordered during the specific timeframe for that patient.

### Mint top and Gold top tubes **MUST BE SPUN**

Sending samples uncentrifuged is a risky process because couriers often have multiple stops in addition to the time it takes for the sample to be received in the OSF processing department and ultimately centrifuged. Even if the sample is sent in a STAT bag, there is still time needed at OSF to physically and electronically receive the specimen, especially when there may be a high volume of STATs at the time of receipt. At this time, there continues to be specimen rejections because of the two hour window being exceeded. **These rejections that affect the patient are 100% avoidable.**

Per our risk assessment and corrective action to ensure test results of the highest integrity and impact to the patient, **every gold and mint green tube sample must be centrifuged prior to courier shipment. UNSPUN GOLD AND MINT TUBES SENT TO THE SYSTEM LAB WILL BE REJECTED.**

### New version of paper requisitions now in use

If you submit utilizing paper requisitions, please check the version of requisition you are using and ensure that it is the current version (V.003 with a RED square). The new reqs reflect the change to the Free (Calc.) and Total Testosterone that is now done in-house. Also, the new *H. pylori* Stool Antigen test has been added and the old, discontinued tests have been removed.

### Did you know...

If your DNA was stretched out, it would reach the moon 6,000 times.  
56% of typing is done with your left hand. The longest word you can spell typing with only your left hand is stewardesses. Longest with only your right is lollipop.

### Warm weather and lockboxes

For those clients that utilize a night-time lock box, please remember to keep specimens cool by utilizing ice packs. It should be mentioned that caution be used to ensure the specimens are not sitting on or in direct contact with the ice pack(s). A towel or folded-up paper towel between the ice pack and specimens will prevent any chance of direct contact.

### New QuantiFERON specimen information

Please be aware that the QuantiFERON specimen instructions have been revised. Once the sample has been collected, you still need to shake vigorously 10 times (5 seconds) and keep at room temperature. If the sample will not arrive at the OSF System Laboratory within 12 hours after collection:

- 1) Remix samples for 5 seconds
- 2) Incubate on site for 16-24 hrs at 37° C
- 3) Centrifuge at 3200-4000 rpm for 10 minutes
- 4) Place an “Incubated” label on the tube before sending
- 5) Transport incubated samples at room temp.

We are adding an “Incubated” label to the kits we send out. Please ensure the label is affixed to the specimen tube if the sample has already been incubated.

### Keep in mind...

“I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work.” -Thomas A. Edison