

## Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

# Communiqué

### IN THIS ISSUE

Date and Time Requirement [ pg.1]

New Phlebotomy Area [pg.2]

Alex Kalof, MD New Division Chief for AP [pg.3]

CSF Total Protein Reference Range Change [pg.4]

Lyme AB Confirmation Platform [pg.4]

Reportable Range Changes for Sodium, T3, Urine Calcium, Troponin I [pg.5]

Green Top Tube Orders [pg.7]

Bilirubin, Conjugated and Unconjugated Discontinued at FA Campus [pg.6]

New Customer Service Hours [pg.6]

Compliance Updates [pg.6-7]

MVP Denials

Urinalysis Fact Sheet

Blood Counts Fact Sheet

### LAB TOURS

Come meet the Clinical Lab Scientists and see the technology behind the lab tests you send the University of Vermont Medical Center every day. We will be hosting laboratory tours on the second Tuesday of each month.

Tours are given at the Main Pavilion at 10 am or 1 pm (alternate times can be arranged) and will take approximately one hour.

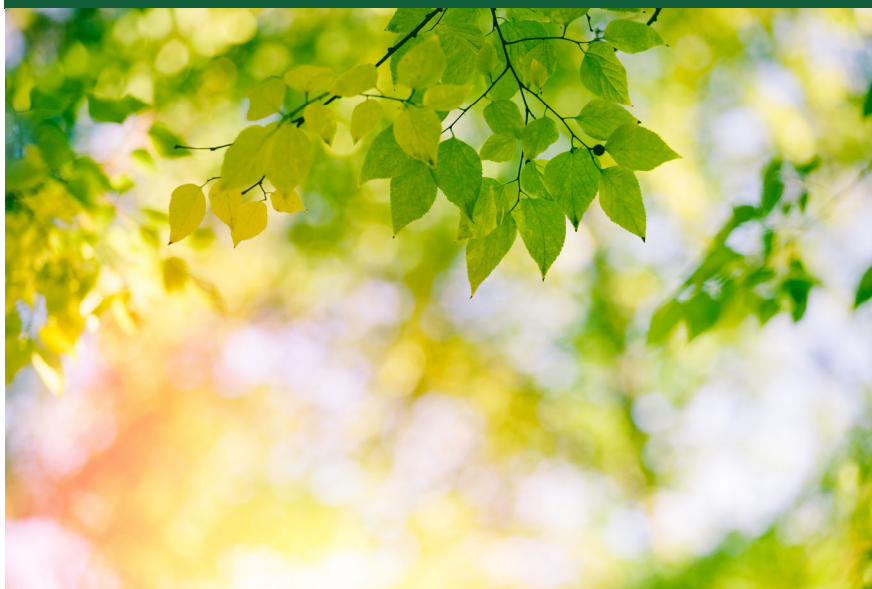
Preregistration is required.

Call (802) 847-9473 or email

LabAmbassador@UVMHealth.org.

**We hope to see you soon!**

### LAB OPERATIONS



## Date and Time Required on all Laboratory Orders

Providing accurate lab values is critical for the care and treatment of our patients. Documenting the collect date, and TIME, ensures that we are able to assess sample integrity. In particular, unspun samples older than 4 hours create the risk of providing erroneous lab results that can be so critical in value that the patient is asked to seek emergency medical care they do not need. This is documented in the literature and has happened several times here in the last 12 months.

***On April 1, 2019 we began requiring the collection DATE and TIME to be documented for all samples received in our laboratory. This includes both electronic and paper orders. Failure to include this information will initiate a phone call to obtain the missing information and will delay test results.***

In conjunction with that change, any samples received unspun older than 4 hours from collection will be rejected and a redraw will be requested.

## New Phlebotomy Area - More Space and Better Workflow



On February 18, we opened a new Outpatient Laboratory Service / Phlebotomy space at the Main Campus across the hall from the old phlebotomy area on East Pavilion 2. We now have a spacious private waiting area with a separate pediatric waiting area that was specially designed for children. In the new space, we have expanded from three collection chairs to six with two pediatric themed private rooms.

This is our largest and busiest collection site where we can see up to 200 patients a day. The additional space makes for a safer and more private patient experience and the workflow in the new space has improved patient satisfaction.



**MORE SPACE AND BETTER WORKFLOW**



**PRIVATE ROOMS WITH A PEDIATRIC THEME**

### Outpatient Laboratory Service / Phlebotomy Area Hours and Locations

#### **BURLINGTON: MAIN CAMPUS**

111 Colchester Avenue, Main Pavilion, Level 2

**Hours: Monday—Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm**

**Saturday & Sunday, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Number of Collection Chairs: 6

#### **COLCHESTER: FANNY ALLEN CAMPUS**

792 College Parkway, Medical Office Building, Suite 104

**Hours: Monday—Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm**

Number of Collection Chairs: 4

#### **BURLINGTON: 1 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET**

1st Floor Lobby

**Hours: Monday—Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Number of Collection Chairs: 4

#### **WILLISTON: ADULT PRIMARY CARE**

353 Blair Park Road (near Taft Corners)

**Hours: Monday—Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm**

Number of Collection Chairs: 2

## New Division Chief for Anatomic Pathology

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that **Alexandra Kalof, M.D.**, will serve as our Department's Division Chief for Anatomic Pathology, effective April 1, 2019.

In this role, Dr. Kalof, who is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, will provide leadership in Anatomic Pathology through coordination of the efforts of the Section Medical Directors of Autopsy, Cytopathology, Histology/Immunohistochemistry, and Surgical Pathology; the Anatomic Pathology Quality Co-Director; and the Anatomic Pathology Manager. She will work in partnership with the Division Chiefs of Community Practice Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and with the Network Vice Chair for Quality and Clinical Affairs, on issues and projects broadly affecting the Division and the Department as a whole. An internal search for the next Section Medical Director of Surgical Pathology will begin soon.



Alexandra Kalof, MD  
Division Chief  
Anatomic Pathology

Dr. Kalof joined the UVM faculty in 2005 after receiving her medical degree from UVM in 2000, completing her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Fletcher Allen, and completing a Surgical Pathology fellowship at Stanford University. An expert in the areas of bone and soft tissue pathology and gynecologic pathology, Dr. Kalof has served as Section Medical Director of Surgical Pathology at UVM Medical Center since 2018, and previously as Section Medical Director of Histology from 2007-2009. She has led the UVM Cancer Center's Sarcoma Transdisciplinary Team since its founding in 2015. In recognition of her excellence as an educator, Dr. Kalof has been honored as Attending Pathologist Teacher of the Year by our Department's residents in 2007 and 2017.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Kalof on her new leadership role.

Sincerely,  
Michael

**Michael R. Lewis, MD, MBA**  
Vice Chair, Quality and Clinical Affairs



Clayton Wilburn, MD  
Medical Director  
Clinical Chemistry  
Phone: 847-9657

## CSF Total Protein Reference Range Change

On April 29, 2019, the reference range for CSF Total Protein will change to the New Reference Ranges in the table below. This is part of the ongoing review and maintenance of laboratory reference ranges.

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn (clayton.wilburn@uvmhealth.org) in the laboratory.

Analyte/Test	Current Reference Range	New Reference Range 4/29/2019
CSF Total Protein	12-60 mg/dL (All Ages)	0-30 days: <100 mg/dL 30 days-<60 years: 12-45 mg/dL ≥60 years: 12-60 mg/dL

## Lyme Antibody Confirmation Platform Change

On 1/9/2019 the Chemistry laboratory moved Serum Lyme Antibody (IgG and IgM) Confirmation testing from the Trinity Biotech TrinBlot to the Gold-Standard Diagnostics ROBOBLOT™ platform. The test name, ordering process, amount of IgG and/or IgM bands required for positivity, and reporting of the specific IgG and/or IgM bands will remain the same. The test code will change from LYMWB to LYMIB.

Correlation studies between the two assays demonstrate very good agreement. This test will still be required to reflex from when there is a positive a positive Lyme serology result. The only change is the comment attached to the test results will now say performed by Immunoblot, rather than western blot.

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn in the laboratory.

## Reportable Range Change for Serum/Urine Sodium, Total T3, Urine Calcium, Cardiac Troponin I

As of 2/11/2019, the reportable ranges for serum sodium, urine sodium, urine calcium, total T3, and cardiac troponin I was revised. The table below summarizes these changes.

Analyte/Test	Current Reportable Range	New Reportable Range
Serum/Plasma Sodium	75-220 mEq/L	75-175 mEq/L
Urine Sodium	5.0-500.0 mEq/L	10.0-500.0 mEq/L
Urine Calcium	1.0-89.0 mg/dL	1.0-75.0 mg/dL
Total T3	67-781 ng/dL	13-781 ng/dL
Cardiac Troponin I	0.034-80.0 ng/mL	0.034-65.0 ng/mL

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact, Dr. Clayton Wilburn.

## Urine and 24 Hour Creatinine Clearance Reference Range Changes

As part of routine reference range review, the reference range for 24 hour urine creatinine and the calculated creatinine clearance based on that measurement were updated on 2/11/2019. The table below summarizes this update.

Analyte/Test	Current Reference Range	New Reference Range
24h Urine Creatinine	1.0-2.0 g/24h (Male and Female)	0.8-1.8 g/24h (Female) 1.0-2.0 g/24h (Male)
Calculated Creatinine Clearance	87-107 mL/min (Female) 107-139 mL/min (Male)	88-128 mL/min (Female) 97-137 mL/min (Male)

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn.

### REFERENCES:

Chernecky CC, Berger BJ. Creatinine clearance - serum and urine. In: Chernecky CC, Berger BJ, eds. *Laboratory Tests and Diagnostic Procedures*. 6th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier Saunders; 2013:401-403.

VITROS Chemistry Products CREA (IDMS) Slides IFU No. J27323 - V 11.0

### TEST CATALOG

To view a complete listing of tests available at the University of Vermont Medical Center, please visit [UVMHealth.org/MedCenterTests](http://UVMHealth.org/MedCenterTests)

Browse by Name

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L

Search



## Green top Tube Orders

Any supply requests for green top tubes will be filled with the 3 mL green (heparin, PST) gel tubes. The 6 mL heparin tubes will only be available by special request from Laboratory Customer Service.

## Conjugated and Unconjugated Bilirubin (Including Neonatal) Was Discontinued at the Fanny Allen Campus

As of 02/01/2019, conjugated (Bc) and unconjugated (Bu) bilirubin testing is no longer performed at Fanny Allen Campus, this includes neonatal bilirubin testing. Total bilirubin testing will still be available on-site. Should a patient require measurement of Bc and Bu or neonatal bilirubin, a sample will be sent by courier to the main campus laboratory. The great majority of bilirubin testing at Fanny Allen Laboratory is for total bilirubin, so this change should affect a very limited number of patients.. The removal of Bc and Bu testing is prompted by performance issues with these assays on the Fanny Allen instrumentation.

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact the chemistry medical director, Dr. Clayton Wilburn in the laboratory.

## Compliance Updates

### MVP DENIALS

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of claim denials for Vitamin D testing and Thyroid testing.

#### **Per MVP Policy-**

**Vitamin D** will only be reimbursed when there is a known diagnosis or condition associated with Vitamin D deficiency. Screening for Vitamin D is NOT considered reimbursable.

**Thyroid testing-** MVP has adopted the Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD 190.22) to determine medical necessity for this testing. Thyroid testing will not be covered unless it meets the criteria outlined in the policy. Here is the link to the policy: <https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/Documents/Departments-and-Programs/Compliance%20Updated/Thyroid%20NCD.pdf>

## NEW LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS



We have changed our weekend Customer Service hours so that we are open the same hours for both Saturday and Sunday.

**New Saturday Hours:** 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**New Sunday Hours:** 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Monday – Friday Hours:** 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Karen Cross, Customer  
Service Representative

*Compliance Updates Continued*

**URINALYSIS – MLN FACT SHEET – JANUARY 2019**

In 2018, the Medicare improper payment rate for urinalysis was 13.2%, representing a projected improper payment amount of more than \$7.9 million. The tips below were taken from the January 2019 MLN Fact Sheet.

**BLOOD COUNTS - MLN FACT SHEET – FEBRUARY 2019**

**Provider Compliance Tips for Blood Counts**

In 2017, Medicare projected an improper payment amount of \$56.6 million. Insufficient documentation accounted for 89% of the improper payments. Because of this, CMS has created a “Provider Compliance Tips for Laboratory Tests- Blood Counts” Fact Sheet.

TO PREVENT DENIALS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. The physician or NPP treating the beneficiary must order all diagnostic x-ray tests, diagnostic laboratory tests, and other diagnostic tests. Tests not ordered by the physician or NPP treating the beneficiary are not considered reasonable and necessary.
2. The physician or NPP who orders the service must maintain documentation of medical necessity in the beneficiary's medical record.
3. The entity submitting the claim must maintain the documentation that it receives from the ordering physician or NPP.

**TEST ORDER DOCUMENTATION**

A written document signed by the treating physician or NPP that is hand delivered, mailed, or faxed to the testing facility. No signature is required on orders for clinical diagnostic tests paid on the basis of the clinical laboratory fee schedule, the physician fee schedule, or for physician pathology services.

- A telephone call by the treating physician/NPP, or his/her office to the UVMMC (847-5121 or 1-800-9912799) testing facility.
- An email from the treating physician/NPP or his/her office to the testing facility. (Refer to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 80.6 - Requirements for Ordering and Following Orders for Diagnostic Tests.)

Please see the fact sheets for a complete review.

Urinalysis Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/ProviderComplianceTipsforLabTests-Urinalysis-MLN1492897.pdf>

Blood Count Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/ProviderComplianceTipsforLaboratoryTestsBloodCounts-ICN909481.pdf>

**PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ — APRIL 2019**

**PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY  
MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ**

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Lynn Bryan, Laboratory Manager  
Monica Sullivan, Laboratory Manager  
Tim St. John, Laboratory Manager  
Amy Graham, Customer Service  
Colleen Williams, Communication Strategist

**ADDRESS**

111 Colchester Avenue  
Mail Stop: 233MP1  
Burlington, Vermont 05446

**PHONE LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE**

(802) 847-5121  
(800) 991-2799

**FAX LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE**

(802) 847-5905

**WEBSITE**

[UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs](http://UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs)

