MERCY CLINICAL LABORATORY CHANGING REFERENCE LABORATORY

For many years, the primary reference laboratory used by Mercy Clinical Laboratory (MCL) has been PAML (Pathology Medical Laboratories), based in Spokane, Wash. Earlier this year Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) purchased PAML.

MCL leadership evaluated making the change to LabCorp against aligning ourselves with a reference laboratory to better serve the needs of the statewide Mercy Health Network. As a result the laboratories of Mercy Health Network have made the decision to align with Mayo Medical Laboratories, located in Rochester, Minn.

Through a partnership with Mayo Medical Laboratories, MCL is able to collaborate with a leading reference laboratory to provide esoteric testing to clients. Mayo Medical Laboratories is a global reference laboratory, providing reference laboratory and consultative services to hospitals, providers and patients.

The resources provided through Mayo Medical Laboratories are invaluable; from testing algorithms and cascades to access to hundreds of physicians, scientists and subspecialty pathologists specializing in laboratory medicine and pathology.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Over the course of the next few months, MCL will be converting tests from PAML to Mayo. You may have seen some changes in specimen requirements already. We hope to have the majority of our tests converted to Mayo by May 2018, if not sooner. Please check our test catalog to stay on top of the latest changes in specimen requirements for esoteric testing. If the test is not in the MCL test catalog, please reference the Mayo test catalog. Links to both test catalogs are provided below.

“Mercy Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Associates of Central Iowa are looking forward to this new partnership with great enthusiasm. Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) has an outstanding reputation. In addition to improved turn-around-time, cost, and test menu MML can also provide educational tools for providers, complex testing algorithms, and top-notch customer service. Our clients will definitely see improved esoteric reference lab service. This will be a fantastic change!”

Dr. Matthew Andres, MCL Medical Director and Chief of Pathology

mercydesmoines.org/clinical-lab
mayomedicallaboratories.com/test-catalog/index.html

For testing performed for purposes of monitoring therapy, we will be offering parallel testing at both PAML and Mayo Medical Laboratories so clinicians can re-baseline patient levels. Please order a miscellaneous test for the duplicate, in parallel, test to be run at PAML. Specify the following: “<Name of Test> in Parallel/Duplicate at PAML-No charge.” Please also place an order for the test itself so we have two (2) orders for the same test.

Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories is interfaced to MCL systems; therefore ensuring the availability of
“Mayo Medical Laboratories is excited to collaborate with Mercy Health Network. It is through relationships like this that we fulfill our mission to provide hope and healing to patients wherever they access care.”

William Morice II, M.D., Ph.D., Chair of Mayo Clinic’s Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, and President of Mayo Medical Laboratories

electronic test results as soon as the test is completed at Mayo. In addition, Mayo provides a courier to transport our referred samples the same day to Mayo Medical Laboratories in Rochester, providing a decreased turnaround time compared to specimens delivered by flight/Fed Ex.

Mercy Clinical Laboratory is proud to collaborate with Mayo Medical Laboratories to offer seamless laboratory services to you!

Questions can be directed to Mona Dinnauer, Outreach Laboratory Manager, at (515) 643-4933.

IN-FLIGHT TRANSFUSION SERVICES ADDED

Mercy Clinical Laboratory has worked very closely with Mercy’s Trauma Services Department to be able to safely provide blood transfusions prior to arrival at the hospital. Mercy One air ambulance is now carrying two units of uncrossmatched packed red blood cells on every helicopter transport. This gives the crew the opportunity to begin a transfusion on a patient long before reaching the hospital environment.

Careful inventory management and circulation of unused units back into the blood bank prevents waste of these products. Transportation and storage of blood products requires adherence to regulatory requirements so special coolers were purchased and tested extensively to ensure appropriate temperatures are maintained during flight. Should the intended temperature range for storage be breached, an indicator attached to each unit will flag the variation and the unit will not be transfused.

Uncrossmatched blood is used only for extreme situations when immediate life-saving intervention is indicated during patient transport. Once the patient arrives at the receiving facility, transition to type-specific blood products is completed as quickly as possible to treat bleeding and stabilize hemostasis.
ENHANCED PROCESSING FOR PAP TESTING

The Mercy Clinical Laboratory Cytology Department has upgraded the processing platform for pap testing to the ThinPrep® 5000 Processor. This instrument offers the latest technology including continuous, hands-free processing with up to 45 minutes of walkaway time. Up to 20 vials, slides, and filters can be loaded at once and processed slides are racked and ready for staining. Automated vial uncapping and re-capping is an ergonomic benefit to operators. Barcode labels are placed on the vials and slides which are then loaded into the carousel. This efficiency allows for decreased turnaround time and increased standardization in processing of specimens submitted for pap testing.

As you are labeling samples, we ask for your help in minimizing the number of labels that are affixed to the pap vial. Please do not use medical tape to label the vial. Please use one label; either from your system or from Atlas. If you do not have pre-printed labels, we encourage you to label the pap vial using the label already on the vial. Labeling the specimen with a minimum number of labels allows us to load the processor quickly and minimizes manual manipulation to have the specimen “instrument ready,” therefore ensuring optimal turnaround time.

Questions can be directed to Jill Noble at (515) 247-4038.

PAP TESTING SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS

Please note, Mercy Clinical Laboratory uses ThinPrep® as the exclusive methodology for pap testing. SurePath™ Pap Vials are not accepted at Mercy Clinical Laboratory.

For a supply of ThinPrep® Pap vials, please contact our Storeroom Coordinator at (515) 643-4949.

TESTING UPDATES

New Criteria for CSF Testing

Given the high sensitivity of CSF PCR testing, and to reduce the false positive rates, Mercy Clinical Laboratory is implementing criteria to be met for CSF Biofire FilmArray® PCR testing. This criteria will take effect December 1, 2017. A CSF analysis must meet 2 of the following 3 criteria before the microbiology lab processes the PCR order.

- WBC (per mm3) > 10
- Glucose (mg/dL) < 30
- Protein (mg/dL) > 70

If the ordering provider deems the clinical circumstances critical, extenuating, or atypical presentation, despite not meeting the above criteria, testing can be performed upon request. Phone the microbiology lab at (515) 247-4450.

This same standards will apply to AFB cultures for CSF specimens. Two of the three criteria must be met before the microbiology lab will process the AFB culture order.

PT/INR Interpretation Change

Mercy Clinical Laboratory has recently updated the interpretation for the PT/INR test. Changes are in red.

RANGES

| Patients not on Coumadin | 0.9 - 1.1 |
| Patients routinely anticoagulated | 2.0 - 3.0 |
| Patients with mechanical prosthetic heart valve | 2.5 - 3.5 |
| Patients anticoagulated for acute myocardial infarction | 2.0 – 3.0 |

WELCOME

MCL welcomes Faye Philips as the Evening/Night Shift Core Lab Supervisor. Faye is a 1999 graduate of Silliman University in the Philippines. She earned her license as a Medical Technologist and was hired by the Philippine Department of Health where she was part of a medical team that helped war evacuees in the southern part of the Philippines. She came to the United States in 2003 and was certified by the American Medical Technologists (AMT). Faye worked as a night shift technologist in the core lab at MCL for seven years, then as a night shift supervisor at Iowa Methodist Medical Center for the next six years.

We are glad to have Faye back at Mercy. Faye may be contacted at Fphilips@mercydesmoines.org or (515) 643-4934.
MCL PATIENT SERVICE CENTERS

MCL patient service centers provide prompt, quality service at the locations listed below. The hospital outpatient phlebotomy stations are based on hospital property, therefore patients must be registered through the hospital and charges are based on a hospital stay. This generally increases the wait time for a blood draw. The hospital outpatient areas are designed to serve patients who need multiple outpatient services including lab; hence the visit could be coordinated.

FOR A BASIC BLOOD DRAW, please utilize one of our three patient service centers.

Mercy Medical Plaza - Atrium
411 Laurel St., Level A, Ste. 265, Des Moines
Phone: (515) 643-8924  Fax: (515) 643-8239
Hours: Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mercy West
1601 NW 114th St., Ste. 134, Clive
Phone: (515) 222-7500  Fax: (515) 222-7510
Hours: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mercy North
800 E. First St., Ste. 1400, Ankeny
Phone: (515) 643-7710  Fax: (515) 643-8176
Hours: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Closed noon - 1 p.m. for lunch)

MERCY OUTPATIENT PHLEBOTOMY

Mercy Medical Center
1111 6th Ave., Main Entrance, Des Moines
Phone: (515) 247-3135  Fax: (515) 643-8832
Hours: Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mercy West Lakes
1755 59th Pl., Ste. 2260, West Des Moines
Phone: (515) 358-8150  Fax: (515) 358-8987
Hours: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WESTOWN PATIENT SERVICE CENTER CLOSED

After much consideration, Mercy Clinical Laboratory has decided to close the Draw Station/Patient Service Center located at 5901 Westown Pkwy, Ste. 236. Through market changes, there was a dramatic decrease in usage of this draw station. This location closed on November 30, 2017. Please utilize one of our other locations for specimen collection services.