

Laboratory Update

Provider Education – Test Denials, Marking Bill-Type, & Collection Date and Time Labels

Bill-Type Selection Reminder: A reminder to clients when filling out a MercyOne Laboratory requisition form, please clearly mark in the *Bill-Type* section of the form, which option is applicable with that specific patient, whether it is *Bill Office/Faculty/SNF/Skilled*, *Bill Insurance (Attached Insurance Cards and ICD-10 Codes Needed)*, or *Bill Patient*. This is a critical step and cuts down on patient care delays at all ends of service.

Collection Date & Time Labels: Labeling specimen with a collection date and time and/or including documentation with this integral information is a critical piece of specimen collection in the MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory. We would like to remind clients of this step as it helps us determine specimen stability, test accuracy, and efficient turnaround times.

Provider Education – Laboratory Test Denials Awareness:

MercyOne has identified increased denials related to the testing listed below. Please include the ICD-10 diagnosis codes that support medical necessity when ordering these tests:

[Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy \[LAB535\] – CPT 82306](#): Order this test only when the patient has a documented qualifying condition, such as vitamin D deficiency under active replacement monitoring, osteoporosis or osteomalacia, abnormal calcium or parathyroid disorders, chronic kidney disease stage III or greater, malabsorption, or other conditions supported by applicable payer policies. Routine screening of asymptomatic patients without a documented covered indication may be denied.

[Respiratory Virus Panel \[LAB8132\] – CPT 0202U](#): This broad multiplex panel should generally be reserved for high-risk or medically complex patients when identifying the pathogen is expected to change management, isolation precautions, diagnostic evaluation, or disposition. Avoid routine screening and use caution in average-risk outpatients with uncomplicated respiratory illness.

[COVID/Flu/RSV Testing \[LAB8112\] – CPT 87637](#): For symptomatic outpatient respiratory illness, choose this test when results are expected to guide treatment or infection-control decisions. Common supporting symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, sore throat, or another acute respiratory presentation.

Before submitting an order, please confirm:

- The diagnosis reflects the patient's documented condition or symptoms.
- The indication clearly supports the specific test ordered.
- The medical record supports why the result may affect care.
- A broad respiratory panel is not being used when COVID/Flu/RSV testing is more appropriate.