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Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Communiqué



Laboratory Services Summer Holiday Hours

Location	Memorial Day May 27, 2024	Thursday July 4, 2024	Labor Day September 2, 2024
Main Campus ACC Burlington	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fanny Allen Campus MOB Colchester	Closed	Closed	Closed
UHC Campus 1 South Prospect Burlington	Closed	Closed	Closed

Any day not listed here are regularly scheduled hours. Patients are seen in the order in which they arrive at ACC and UHC, unless they need immediate testing, timed tests, or have special needs. Some testing must be scheduled in advance or have other special considerations.

Appointments are required at the Fanny Allen Campus MOB. Please Call 847-8864 to schedule your appointment

As a friendly reminder, any tests ordered that require kit collection can only be collected Monday through Friday.

ANNUAL NOTE TO PAP TEST PROVIDERS

March 2024

Accredited laboratories are required to remind providers at least annually of the screening nature of the Pap Test. The University of Vermont Medical Center's Department of Cytopathology has elected to send an advisory in the form of this single communication, rather than an educational note appended to every negative Pap report emanating from the laboratory. As such, we would like to remind you that:

The Pap Test is a screening test with an inherent but low false negative rate. Regardless of the result, patients should consult you immediately if they have any suspicious signs or symptoms.

PAP AND HPV TESTING

In order to appropriately test and charge for Pap testing, our laboratory requires that **all** Pap test orders be identified as screening or diagnostic. This is to help ensure your patients do not receive bills for covered services.

- **Screening:** Routine exam, no current symptoms, no previous abnormal findings
- **Diagnostic:** Previous abnormal Pap findings, signs or symptoms, or has significant complaints related to the female reproductive system

High Risk (HR) HPV Testing

Our high risk HPV reflex algorithm is based on the ASCCP guidelines found at <https://www.asccp.org/guidelines>

Current HPV Testing Pathways:

For screening and diagnostic testing, HPV testing options are:

- **Regardless of Diagnosis (Co-Test)**
 - ◊ HR HPV screen will always be performed.
- **Regardless of Diagnosis (Co-Test) reflex to Genotype if HPV positive**
 - ◊ HR HPV screen will always be performed and will reflex to genotyping for HPV 16 & HPV18-45 if the HR screen is positive.
- **If ASCUS Pap Diagnosis No Genotyping**
 - ◊ HR HPV screen will be performed if the Pap test diagnosis is Atypical Squamous Cells
- **If ASCUS Pap Diagnosis Reflex to Genotyping if HPV Positive**
 - ◊ HR HPV screen will be performed if the Pap test diagnosis is Atypical Squamous Cells and will reflex to genotyping for HPV 16 & HPV18-45 if the HR screen is positive.
- **None**

Please note that HPV testing options listed above may be outside of recommended ASCCP guidelines.

- HPV testing for ASCUS diagnoses is intended for patients 25-29 and genotyping is not recommended.
- Medicare patients 65 years or older are NOT eligible for HPV testing on screening Pap tests.
- HPV Regardless of Diagnosis (Co-Test) is intended for patients 30 to 65

There are other indications for HPV testing that are not covered by these reflex criteria. To add on an HPV order, please fax the request to 802-847-3632.

If the sample source is **Vaginal** and HPV testing is ordered, the sample will be sent to Mayo Medical Laboratory, as UVMMC has not validated HPV testing on this specimen type. If the sample source is **Anus**, HPV testing will not be performed in accordance with the FDA.

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Compliance

Molecular Pathology Testing Coverage and Prior Authorization (PA)

Molecular Pathology tests are subject to multiple Medicare policies. Medicare **DOES NOT** require PA.

Please contact Lab Compliance for assistance. If you are unsure whether testing is covered by Medicare. We are happy to help. We will need the test name, CPT code, and the associated diagnosis.

Phone: (802) 847-9435 or (802) 847-0930

Email: LabCompliance@uvmhealth.org

Commercial payers require PA for most molecular pathology tests. Please send these requests to the prior authorization team.

GREAT NEWS FOR DIABETES SCREENING

Medicare updated the Diabetes Screening policy to include **Hemoglobin A1C testing** 1/1/24.

MLN006559 – Medicare Preventive Services (cms.gov)

- Covering screening diagnosis code: Z13.1
- Frequency: 2 screenings within the 12-month period following the date of the patient's most recent diabetes screening test.

Previously Distributed Test Updates

Please click on the links below to view the corresponding Test Updates.

The links can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/UVMMC-Test-Updates>

CSF IgG Index Testing Change—Effective 1/10/2024

Mayo's Double -Stranded (dsDNA) Antibodies with Reflex, IgG, Serum Testing to be Discontinued —Effective 1/16/2024

Alpha Galactosidase, Serum Update —Effective 1/18/2024

Insulin Submit Temperature/Testing Schedule Update —Effective 1/24/2024

Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Isoenzymes, Serum Discontinued —Effective 2/6/2024

Cytogenetics Testing Update —Effective 2/12/2024

TEG and PLT Mapping Pathology Interpretation Update —Effective 2/15/2024

SARS CoV2 Flu A, B, RSV Combo Test —Effective 3/6/2024

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ — SPRING—2024

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ

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WEBSITE

UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs

Syringe Disposal

The University of Vermont Medical Center does not accept sharps for disposal from patients. Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) will accept needles that are packaged according to the instructions outlined in their pamphlet "GET THE POINT: Be safe with syringes and other sharps". CSWD also has bright orange stickers to attach to a syringe container to warn handlers to be careful. These items are available at any CSWD location. You can also order them so that they are available for patients at your office 872-8111 or visit www.cswd.net

Patient Instruction Brochures

We have several brochures for patients that need to collect samples at home. The following are available online by visiting UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabServices or you can contact Lab Customer Service to receive some via mail.

- Feces Sample Collection
- Fecal Occult Blood Collection
- Sputum Sample Collection
- Urine Sample Collection