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## Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



### Laboratory Services Summer Holiday Hours

Location	Labor Day Monday Sept 1, 2025
Main Campus ACC Burlington	Closed
Fanny Allen Campus MOB Colchester	Closed
UHC Campus 1 South Prospect Burlington	Closed

Any day not listed here are regularly scheduled hours. Patients are seen in the order in which they arrive at ACC and UHC. 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

## Lab Operations

### Change in reporting of volatile screens and ethylene glycol

On 07/01/2025, the UVMMC clinical laboratory will discontinue calling negative results for volatile screens and ethylene glycol. Positive results for methanol, isopropanol and ethylene glycol will be called to the ordering location or provider as these require urgent attention. This change is to help minimize calls to providers and clinical teams.

When ordering a volatile screen or ethylene glycol assay, please call Lab Customer Service at 847-5121 or 1-800-991-2799 to notify us that a sample is on the way. This notification will allow time for us to prepare the instrumentation and ensure an appropriate turnaround time.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please contact Dr. Hanna Loving ([hanna.loving@uvmhealth.org](mailto:hanna.loving@uvmhealth.org)) in the laboratory.

## Compliance

### CMS Medicare Claims Processing Changes

Dated:4/25/25; Implementation date 4/7/2025 See document: [r13195cp.pdf](#)

#### Added R53.83 to the list of Unacceptable Principal Diagnosis codes.

Some payers also follow Medicare policies, so this issue is not unique to Medicare.

R53.83 can be used in addition to other diagnosis codes. Testing will not be covered when used alone.

## 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

## AP News

### Policy for Gynecologic Oncology Care Pathway of Predictive/Prognostic Testing

In alignment with NCCN guideline standards of care, the gynecologic oncology team at UVMMC has agreed that testing in the Gyn-Onc Care Pathway may be ordered by the pathologist upon histologic diagnosis. Orders can also be requested by clinicians, as deemed appropriate for clinical care. The clinician may contact lab customer service to decline normally preferred testing.

Gyn-Onc Care Pathway includes:

- For a diagnosis of endometrial carcinoma: Mismatch repair proteins, estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, p53, Her-2, and comprehensive molecular profiling.
- For a diagnosis of ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal carcinoma: Her-2, FOLR1, and comprehensive molecular profiling.
- For a diagnosis of cervical carcinoma: PDL1, mismatch repair proteins, Her-2, and comprehensive molecular profiling.

The specific testing algorithm depends on the clinical setting of primary diagnosis versus recurrence. Please reach out to Dr. Bronwyn Bryant, Subspecialty Medical Director of Gynecologic Pathology, with specific questions at [Bronwyn.Bryant@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Bronwyn.Bryant@uvmhealth.org)

### Updates to Anatomic Pathology (AP) Testing in the Reflex Testing Policy

Most of predictive/prognostic biomarker AP testing will be re-defined as “Guidelines-based AP testing” and removed from the reflex testing policy.

Testing Definitions:

- AP Guidelines-based Testing: Pathologist-initiated testing required for guidelines-based clinical management, initiated after interpretation of the original tissue specimen and review of clinical context.
- Reflex test (best applies to CP specimens): Testing performed based of initial test results to identify significant diagnostic information required for clinical care. The major difference from AP testing is that an interpretation of the initial test result and review of clinical context usually does not occur prior to order of the 2nd test.

If AP testing is not clinical guideline endorsed or is ordered without a pathology review, it will be included in the reflex testing protocol

Benefits to defining AP Guidelines-based Testing:

- Any updates, additions, or removals of guidelines-based tests will no longer require reflex policy updates, lab requisition changes, or formal test update communications.
- Allows our AP department to be responsive to providing biomarker testing indicated by clinical guidelines.

Next Steps:

- Reflex testing policy updates underway.
- With collaboration with subspecialty medical directors, determine which AP testing will be defined as a guidelines-based test vs inclusion in the reflex testing policy.
- Develop job aid to assist ordering of guideline-based tests

Please reach out to Dr. John Kennedy, AP Quality/CLIA Director, with questions, ([John.Kennedy@uvmhealth.org](mailto:John.Kennedy@uvmhealth.org)).

## 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>

[HIV Antibody Confirmation/Differentiation Changes](#)

[Group A Strep PCR Changes](#)

[Factor XII, Functional Testing](#)

[Autopsy Service Change for Perinatal Autopsies Sent to UVMMC from NECLA Affiliated Hospitals](#)

[Changes to HIV Testing Algorithm](#)

### PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ

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(802) 847-5905

#### WEBSITE

[UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs](http://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](http://www.cswd.net)

## Patient Instruction Brochures

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