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Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



Laboratory Services Summer Holiday Hours

Location	Independence Day Friday July 4, 2025	Labor Day Monday Sept 1, 2025
Main Campus ACC Burlington	Closed	Closed
Fanny Allen Campus MOB Colchester	Closed	Closed
UHC Campus 1 South Prospect Burlington	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. 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

Summer Communique Highlights

Here are a few highlights for this issue. Full updates available in links below.

HAND DELIVER SPECIMENS FOR PLATELET FUNCTION TESTING

Effective April 17, 2025, the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Laboratory requests that **all platelet function testing be hand delivered to the laboratory. Please avoid transport via the pneumatic tube system for platelet function testing**, including:

- Platelet Function Analysis (PFA1) – Epic Code LAB318
- Thrombelastography (TEG) – Epic Code LAB3560
- Platelet Mapping for Plavix (PMADP) – Epic Code LAB3324
- Platelet Mapping for Aspirin (PMAA) – Epic Code LAB3323
- Platelet Mapping for Aspirin & Plavix (PMADPA) – Epic Code LAB3322

The purpose of this change is to minimize platelet activation, which may occur during transport via the pneumatic tube system. While the pneumatic tube system is a convenient and efficient method for transport, the vibrational forces create foaming of the specimen and platelet activation, both of which may impact functional testing.

[Link: Hand Deliver Specimens for Platelet Function Testing](#)

NEW PARASITOLOGY TESTING

Effective 4/23/25, UVMMC began offering a new algorithmic approach to stool parasitology to optimize patient testing and laboratory stewardship. The new panel, **Parasite Screen, Stool**, includes Giardia and Cryptosporidium. All parasitology tests will require only a single container - the ECOFIX Stool Transport Vial Kit.

[Link: Stool Parasitology Testing](#)

PRIMARY HPV WITH PAP IF INDICATED

Effective 3/12/25, a new cervical cancer screening test was introduced; **Primary HPV with Pap if Indicated**. Screening for cervical cancer has evolved over the years from cytology to cytology/HPV co-testing. Primary HPV testing has shown to be more sensitive than cytology alone but comparable to cytology/HPV co-testing. The American Cancer Society, the American College of Obstetricians/Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) all recommend primary HPV testing as the initial screen for cervical cancer for average risk people with a cervixes age 25 to 65 and cytology/HPV co-testing if primary HPV testing is not available.

[Link: Primary HPV with Pap if Indicated](#)

Lab Interest

Epic Aura Application Interfaces lab orders and results to molecular reference labs.

We are pleased to report that the Epic Beaker team just completed our first successful Epic Aura integration with Natera Labs for our Women's Health division. We now have interfaced orders and results for Natera's offerings including prenatal, obstetric and gynecologic testing, and expect their oncology and renal testing to be available in this platform soon.

"We expect to identify and complete additional interfaces with other molecular labs through Aura based on test volume and clinical need." Jillian Dudley, Director of Clinical Applications.

Overview of Aura for Ordering Organizations

Closure of UVMMC Genomic Medicine Program

You may have seen the Test Alert about the imminent closure of our Genomic Medicine Program at UVMMC at the end of May. The loss of the testing performed in house was a very difficult decision to make for UVMMC leadership in conjunction with faculty and staff in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Many things were considered including the cost of the testing in house, out of pocket expenses for patients and the speed at which the genes change and how quickly we could develop and validate new testing as a hospital based regional laboratory and compete with the national boutique labs who focus exclusively on this type of testing.

As we move forward, we are working to identify alternative labs who perform solid tumor and hematopathology molecular testing that offer value to clinicians and patients making decisions about their healthcare.

LABORATORY PATIENT SERVICE CENTER



MainCampus
Main Pavilion, Level 2
111 Colchester Avenue
Burlington, VT

One South Prospect
1 South Prospect St
First Floor Lobby
Burlington, VT

Fanny Allen Campus
792 College Parkway
Colchester, VT

Visit UVMHealth.org/MedCenterDrawSites for patient service center hours and special test considerations.

All UVM Medical Center phlebotomists are nationally certified

Compliance

LAB COMPLIANCE FOCUS: MOLECULAR TESTING

Molecular testing policies vary by payer and should be reviewed prior to test collection. Commercial payer policy coverage is varied. Most payers have their own policies.

Government Payers typically follow this policy: Article - Billing and Coding: Molecular Pathology Procedures (A56199)

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=56199&ver=110&bc=0>

After review of policy and prior to test collection, if testing will be performed that is not covered by the patient's policy, a payer specific Patient Potential Financial Liability form should be obtained.

UVMMC Lab's forms are located: <https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/departments-and-programs/pathology-and-laboratory-medicine/lab-services-for-hospitals-and-clinicians/compliance-updates>

Under:

Patient Potential Financial Liability Forms

Medicare: Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Non-Coverage (ABN), Form #032739	Download PDF
Medicare: Advance Beneficiary Notice of Non-Coverage (ABN) for patients who are dual eligible (Medicare/Medicaid), Form #DOC0010534	Download PDF
VT and NY Medicaid: Notice of Financial Responsibility, Form #037113	Download PDF
Tricare Request for Non-covered Services, Form #037112	Download PDF
Commercial: Advance Notice of Potential Non-Coverage, Form #037111	Download PDF

For questions about molecular testing coverage prior to specimen collection, contact us at: LabCompliance@uvmhealth.org.

B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE (BNP) TESTING

Medicare is currently monitoring BNP test utilization.

Local Coverage Determination [LCD - B-type Natriuretic Peptide \(BNP\) Testing \(L33573\)](#) indications:

- To distinguish cardiac cause of acute dyspnea from pulmonary or other non-cardiac causes. Plasma BNP levels are significantly increased in patients with CHF presenting with acute dyspnea compared with patients presenting with acute dyspnea due to other causes.
- To distinguish decompensated CHF from exacerbated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in a symptomatic patient with combined chronic CHF and COPD. Plasma BNP levels are significantly increased in patients with CHF with or without concurrent lung disease compared with patients who have primary lung disease.
- To establish prognosis or disease severity in chronic CHF when needed to guide therapy.
- To achieve optimal dosing of guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) in select clinically euvolemic patients followed in a well-structured heart failure (HF) disease management program.
- To guide therapeutic decision-making in individuals who have amyloidosis.

Covering diagnoses include heart failure, shortness of breath, dyspnea and wheezing.

Full list: [Article - Billing and Coding: B-type Natriuretic Peptide \(BNP\) Testing \(A56826\)](#)

An ABN may be needed if diagnosis is not listed in the above article.

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>

[Interleukin 2 Receptor Alpha Soluble, Plasma](#)

[Chemistry Critical Value Changes](#)

[Fetal Fibronectin](#)

[Axonal Neuropathy, Autoimmune/Paraneoplastic Evaluation, Serum](#)

[Hand Deliver Specimens for Platelet Function Testing](#)

[Stool Parasitology Testing](#)

[Primary HPV with Pap if Indicated](#)

[CKD Screen \(Kidney Profile\)](#)

[Neurosyphilis IgG Antibody Index with VDRL- Serum and CSF](#)

[Ferritin Reference Range Change](#)

[Changes to AFB Testing](#)

TEST CATALOG

To view a complete listing of tests available at the University of Vermont Medical Center, please visit UVMHealth.org/

[**Browse by Name**](#)

[**Search**](#)



PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ — SPRING 2025

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