

THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Winter 2009

Quarterly Newsletter on MJH Website

This newsletter is from the Laboratory and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It contains important information and news briefs concerning laboratory services. In addition to normal distribution, each issue will be posted at www.marthajefferson.org/healthcare/laboratory. Go to www.marthajefferson.org on the Healthcare Professionals menu and select Laboratory Medicine.

Two Patient Identifiers

The Joint Commission, our accrediting agency, requires Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory to use a uniform patient information process with two patient identifiers. We ask that you include the patient name and date of birth on all samples sent to Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory.

Labeling the specimen in the presence of the patient with two patient identifiers and asking the patient to verify the identifiers assures the accuracy of the labeled specimen. The identifiers we use in the laboratory are name and date of birth. Name and date of birth are two positive identifiers that most people can communicate to you without looking in their wallet. Thank you for your attention to this requirement to assure patient safety.

Enhancements to Laboratory at MJH's ED at Peter Jefferson Place

The Laboratory at MJH's ED @ Peter Jefferson Place has hired a 3rd part-time Medical Technologists, who joins the 1 full-time, 2 part-time technologists, and 2 PRN. To accommodate the higher acuity patient population, we have expanded the hours and test menu with the addition of a chemistry analyzer to do Basic and Comprehensive Metabolic Profiles, Lipase, CK, and CK-MB. We anticipate the addition of prothrombin time/INR, D-Dimer, and Troponin testing in the near future. The technologists have done a wonderful job with all the changes and challenges.

New Histotechs

Martha Jefferson Histology Services would like to welcome Amy Winkle, HT (ASCP) and Erik Keller, HT (ASCP) to the Anatomic Pathology Team. Both come to us with Histology registration and experience from other facilities.

HPV Testing In-house: Update

Martha Jefferson Cytology Services began doing HPV testing in-house on March 1, 2007. Thanks to some hard work in the lab, the HPV volume has grown while improving the TAT (turn around time) and eliminating "equivocal" results. See some statistics below that show the success of bringing the HPV testing in-house.

Total HPVs in 2006 = 2475

Total HPVs in 2007 = 3047

Total HPVs 2008 year to date (does not include Dec.) = 3205

In 2007, the department chose for our customer service improvement goal to shorten Pap test TAT, requiring a number of changes to our workflow. One of these changes, bringing HPV testing in-house, gave us more control over the HPV TAT and allowed us to retest "equivocal" specimens to reach definitive results on almost all cases. Over the past few years, we achieved a decrease in our PAP TAT.

GYN TAT (in-house) average for year—this is inclusive (abnormals, HPVs, HPVs that have to be

re-run, etc.)

2006 = 5.5 days

2007 = 3.4 days

2008 = 3.1 days

For all our cytology clients, we appreciate your business and hope that you have noticed our efforts to improve HPV testing at Martha Jefferson. We welcome any questions about this service by contacting Cytology at 982-7775.

Outpatient Collection Center at the OCC

Outpatients referred for specimen collection should be directed to the OCC– Collection Center @ PJP. The hours of operation of the MJH Laboratory Collection Center are 7am-5pm Monday through Friday.

Patients with the following lab test orders should always be directed to the hospital for specimen collection. After registration, these patients will be directed to the main laboratory on the first floor.

1. Patients with Rhogam
2. Newborns with microbilirubin
3. Patients with STAT test orders
4. Pre-Op patients presenting on the day of surgery

Charlottesville Pathology Website

If you need information about the pathologists, archives of Nanograms (News Brief Section), or any other info about CPA, please feel free to visit the website for Charlottesville Pathology Associates at the following address. www.cvillepathology.net

Reminder

Testing for patients insured by Healthkeepers HMO products* must be referred to Labcorp. If you intentionally send a patient specimen to MJH Laboratories, please boldly identify Healthkeepers on requisitions so it can be handled appropriately.

*HMO products include:

Healthkeepers

Peninsula Healthcare

Priority Healthcare

Medicaid Healthkeepers Plus

FYI Numbers in the Lab

- 4 = Pathologists that direct the lab
- 12 = Number of nursing homes that the clinical lab services
- 80 = MJH employees working in the lab
- 70+ = Years of Cytology experience amongst the Cytotechs
- ~80 % = Average % of info in a medical chart from the lab
- 430 = Average # of slides made daily in Histology
- 77,925 = Total # of CBCs for 2008

Important Telephone Numbers

- Need lab results from the Clinical Lab call 982-7170 or fax 982-7164.
- Outreach Department, call 982-7183
- Need lab results from the Anatomic Pathology Lab 982-7955 or fax 982-7944.
- AP Client Services Representative, Noel Jorgensen, at 244-552

**The next Nanogram newsletter will be Spring 2009
distributed on April 2009.**

