

THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Summer 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.

Pathology Slides for Review

For slides that are coming to Martha Jefferson Hospital from other facilities for pathology review, please follow the directions here to enable the laboratory to offer the most prompt care.

- A Surgical Pathology request with accompanying billing information (copy of insurance cards) should be sent to the pathology lab prior to slides arrival. Fax it to 434-982-7776.
- If slides are received and we have no information, we will have to call the facility that sent us the slides and ask them who requested the review.
- If we get all the information in advance, the process will be more efficient.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Urine Culture if Indicated (UCI)

MJH urinalysis has an orderable test (UCI) that may accompany any Urinalysis in the event that a culture would be necessary, prompting an automatic order and setup of a urine culture on those samples meeting the following criteria:

- **Positive Chemical screen for Leukocyte Esterase and/or Nitrites**
- **Negative Chemical screen but cloudy or turbid sample containing >5 WBC's per HPF**
- **Negative Chemical screen (immunocompromised patients) with >1+ bacteria in males or >2+ bacteria in females (with minimal skin contamination)**

UCI cuts down on the time and cost involved in setting up unnecessary urine cultures on patients with negative urinalysis.

Reminder

Please submit **diagnosis codes** when you submit specimens/requisitions to our laboratory. This will save time and enable the lab to provide a quicker result to you.

New Coag Analyzers

The Coag section of the clinical laboratory at Martha Jefferson went live with two new Beckman Coulter Top 500 analyzers on May 18th. Coag will continue to offer PT, PTT, Fibrinogen, and D-dimer testing routinely. Reference ranges have been modified and new ranges are now attached to the patient report. Martha Jefferson Laboratory Services hope to offer additional special coag testing sometime in the near future to our medical staff and referring offices.

New Autostainer in Histology

Martha Jefferson Laboratory Services has recently purchased a Ventana BenchMark XT Autostainer for the Histology Laboratory. The new stainer will allow the Anatomic Pathology Lab to bring several new antibodies in-house and decrease the turn around time to our patients and referring physicians. We will now be performing ER/PR/Her2 in-house. This is a great addition to our overall menu options and we look forward to providing these services to our medical community.

HURRAY! The Joint Commission Survey

After the survey conducted on May 16-20, the Joint Commission has granted our organization an accreditation decision of Accredited for all services surveyed under the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for laboratory and Point-of-Care Testing.

Free Women's Health Screening Day

Martha Jefferson's Women's Health Center with cooperation from MJH Laboratory Services successfully finished another free health screening day on Saturday, May 2nd.

This free screening included a mammogram, clinical breast exam, and self exam instructions. If the patients desired, a free blood glucose and cholesterol level check was included. This service was by appointment and qualified patients included people with no insurance or limited coverage, over the age of 40, and who have not had a mammogram in over a year.

There will be another free screening day sometime in the fall of 2009 in which MJH Laboratory Services will be participating. Look for flyers with specific dates and contact info.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks to all the offices that have been so helpful in labeling all Pathology and Cytology specimens with the required 2 Patient Identifiers (Name and DOB). Please feel free to ask for more labels if you have found them useful.

Lab Statistic

Martha Jefferson Cytology Services is pleased to announce that turn around time for Pap tests is averaging about 3 days from receipt in the laboratory to verification. For more difficult cases that require more tests, the TAT may vary and be a little longer.

FYI Box

Lab Week Awards

Each year during Laboratory Week (the third week of April), Martha Jefferson Laboratory Services selects and recognizes a few laboratory professionals that have shown excellence in the workplace. Through a nomination and committee review, the lab professionals are honored with The Menk Award and the Lab Person of the Year Award.

The Menk Award was established in honor and memory of Dr. Karl Menk who was an esteemed Pathologists in central Virginia from 1951-1981. The recipient receives funding to attend a professional meeting or conference of their choice. This year's recipient is **Jill Livingood, MT**. Jill graduated from University of Nebraska and has been working at MJH for 11 years. She has been a valuable asset since joining the laboratory and is always willing to share her knowledge and skills wherever needed. Thanks for you service and contribution.

Two individuals in the lab were honored with the Lab Person of the Year Award by their peers—**Geoff Jackson, MT and Sarah Harris, MT** Geoff is the section leader for Phlebotomy and has worked at MJH close to 21 years. Sarah is the section leader for the 3/11 shift and started her journey at MJH with a clinical rotation during her training program. Both honorees show wonderful leadership skills, extensive teamwork abilities, and possess the exact characteristics in an employee that enables a laboratory to run efficiently and effectively. Everyone in the lab would like to thank you both for all your hard work and dedication.

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 244-5525

**The next Nanogram newsletter will be Fall 2009
distributed in October 2009.**