

Client Update

BioReference
LABORATORIES

genpath

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Buena Salud

OPKO Health Companies

December 2019

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Test Name	Test Code	Effective Date
Potassium, Serum	0129	Immediately

With the arrival of colder weather, the handling of blood specimens to avoid any adverse effects associated with exposure to cold temperatures, is once again a concern that could impact patient care.

Serum potassium is one example of a test that is highly sensitive to extremes in temperature. Spurious elevations to serum potassium will be seen when RBCs rupture due to exposure to cold temperatures. An increase in serum potassium above the normal range of 5.5 mmol/L can easily occur when RBCs, which contain almost 20 times the amount of potassium found in serum, rupture when exposed to severe drops in the ambient temperature. Proper collection of blood specimens is essential for accurate assessment of various analytes in serum, plasma and whole blood. In particular, serum separator tubes (SST), must be allowed to clot thoroughly followed by adequate centrifugation. (Details on this process are available in the laboratory compendium).

- **Storage:** Following centrifugation, properly “spun” tubes should be stored at 2-10 degrees C. prior to submitting to the laboratory.
- **Transportation:** Couriers are equipped with coolers that will maintain proper temperature (for specimens requiring refrigeration).
- **Porch Boxes:** Specimens placed in an outside “porch box” should be placed in the box after closing hours to minimize exposure to outside temperatures. During the fall and winter, cold packs are usually not needed however, extended exposure to cold temperatures could and eventually will affect the specimens in the box. (The inert gel barrier in serum separator tubes is effective at reducing or eliminating contact between the cells and serum however, even a few RBC left in the serum after centrifugation can cause elevations in serum potassium). To minimize these deleterious effects, specimens should be held in the office until the driver arrives. IF this is not possible, the box should be left in a lobby or other indoors area to maintain temperature (IF kept indoors, a cold pack can be used as normal). IF an extended period of time between placing specimens outdoors and driver pick up is anticipated, the office can opt to remove the separated serum (from the spun SST) and place the serum in a properly labeled transport tube. This will avoid any adverse temperature-related effects.

BioReference is committed to providing the highest quality in the analysis of specimens however, pre-analytic handling of specimens is critical to that process. Collection, processing, storage and delivery are important steps in the preparation of specimens for testing. All abnormal results produced by the laboratory are evaluated for accuracy prior to reporting. Clients are notified when elevated values that exceed lab or client-based rules are obtained but pre-analytic conditions must be considered when interpreting very high (or low) values.

Please contact your dedicated account representative or our Customer Service Department with questions, to order supplies, and to confirm or discuss pick-up times.

REMINDER - 4Kscore® Test Requisition	N/A	Immediately
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The **4Kscore® Test requisition** form has been modified to support updated coverage criteria from our Medicare carrier. A final local coverage determination (LCD) was recently issued for the 4Kscore Test and will be effective December 30, 2019. This requires a change to how we collect information from providers and patients prior to the 4Kscore Test being ordered. Summary of changes:

1. Documentation of shared decision making, including a detailed discussion about management options and patient preferences, is required prior to processing the test. **BOTH provider and patient signatures, legible names, and dates are required.**
2. **All questions** in the Prostate Cancer Risk Evaluation section **MUST BE COMPLETED.** This includes information related to the Medicare criteria for coverage and capturing clinical factors included in the 4Kscore Test algorithm.
3. A copy of the test requisition should be retained in the patient’s medical record, as part of Medicare’s requirement for documentation of Shared Decision Making prior to ordering the 4Kscore Test.

The updated 4Kscore Test requisition is now available for ordering. Going forward, this will be the only requisition form that can be used to place an order for the 4Kscore Test. **The supply order number for this new test requisition is 487.** Your Account Executive can provide you with additional details and information about the new test requisition. If you have any further questions, please call 4Kscore Customer Service at 833-4KSCORE (833-457-2673).

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REMINDER - Comprehensive Respiratory Panel

L740

Immediately

We are pleased to announce that **The Comprehensive Respiratory Panel** is now available for testing. The panel provides comprehensive testing for upper respiratory infections, and simultaneously detects 17 viral and 4 bacterial infectious agents that present with similar symptoms. Please see below for test details.

New Test Information	
Primary Container	Viral Swab - Media Male And Flu Naso (Order Item# 510)
Turn Around Time*	2 Days
Transportation Temp	Refrigerate
Stability	3 Days
Methodology	Polymerase Chain Reaction
Collection Instructions	Nasopharyngeal Swab (NPS) collected according to standard technique and immediately placed in 1-3 mL of Viral transport media.
Profile Components	Viral: Adenovirus, Coronavirus HKU1, Coronavirus NL63, Coronavirus 229E, Coronavirus OC43, Human Metapneumovirus, Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, Influenza A, Influenza A/H1, Influenza A/H3, Influenza A/H1-2009, Influenza B, Parainfluenza Virus 1, Parainfluenza Virus 2, Parainfluenza Virus 3, Parainfluenza Virus 4, Respiratory Syncytial Virus. Bacterial: Bordetella parapertussis, Bordetella pertussis, Chlamydia pneumonia, Mycoplasma pneumoniae
CPT Code(s)**	87486x1, 87581x1, 87633x1, 87798x1
Clinical Utility	Assess for various viral and bacterial infectious agents associated with symptomatic upper respiratory infections.

NOTE: When ordering tests, providers should only order tests that are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of a patient, generally not for screening. Only a few screening tests are covered by most government and third party payers for certain conditions at specific intervals.

NOTES:

Client updates are also available to be received via email instead of fax. To subscribe to receive client updates via email, please visit <http://bioreferencelabs.bioreference.com/go-green>

* TAT is based upon receipt of the specimen at the laboratory.

**CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.