



Metro Lab Test Tips

January 2018

A publication of Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC



We are half-way through the month of January by the time you receive this issue of Test Tips and though the weather has been harsh, the days are getting longer and thoughts of Spring starting in just two months are welcome! We hope you're off to a great start and are meeting the New Year and its challenges head-on.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Fingerstick Point of care INR (Protime) will no longer be available effective February 1st, 2018 due to inadequate insurance reimbursement to cover the costs of the test.

Metro Lab will continue to draw venous INR tests at all of our Patient Service Centers with results being sent to the ordering physician. Please remind your patients to visit a Metro Lab site *before 10 AM* so you may receive results and/or critical values in a timely manner for review and dose adjustment when necessary.

A SPECIAL NOTE:

NEW COLLECTION MEDIA FOR GC/CHLAMYDIA/TRICHOMONAS

Metro Lab would like to clarify that the purple label Hologic Aptima swab is used for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* in both females and males, and for *Trichomonas vaginalis* in females ONLY. For testing of *Trichomonas vaginalis* in males **do not** collect a urethral sample with the swab. Instead, collect a first-catch urine specimen, 20 to 30 mL of the initial urine stream. Transport specimen refrigerated to the lab within 24 hours.

ALL URINES MUST BE REFRIGERATED

Urine held at room temperature support the growth of both pathogens and contaminants. Be sure to refrigerate within 30 minutes of collection. Deliver refrigerated urine specimens to Metro Lab within 24 hours of collection. Any specimen that is not collected properly, not refrigerated, or that is over 24 hours old will be rejected.

COMING SOON

We are in-network with virtually all insurance carriers. For your convenience, soon we will place a link to the updated 2018 list of those carriers on the front page of our website, www.MetroMedLab.com, making it easier to find and navigate. Until that list is posted, we would like you to encourage your patients to visit their provider's website or call the customer service number on the back of their insurance card to inquire about and understand their coverage.

ICD-10 TOOL BOX

To find helpful tips in ICD-10 coding, visit our website at www.MetroMedLab.com and click on the link to the **ICD-10 Tool Box** on the right-hand side of the front page. Remember, we cannot tell you what codes to use, but these tools may help in reducing your workload and avoid having to recode when we send a Diagnosis Review Form.

EXTENDED CARE

Phone: 309-762-8555

FAX: 309-762-9112

Hours: 6:30 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday

Pam: ext. 3430

Carla: ext. 3415

Amy: ext. 3340

Kim: ext. 3735

*As always, thank you for your continued support.
We appreciate being your laboratory of choice.*

Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC

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