



## *URGENT MEDICAL DEVICE PRODUCT CORRECTION*

BD Life Sciences has confirmed that approximately 3.4% of BD Vacutainers Plus Plastic Citrate Blood Collection Tubes (2.7mL – light blue top tube) will exhibit over fill draw volumes. The most common use of these tubes is in the evaluation of all aspects of coagulation cascade. As per BD's instructions for use, the overfilling or under filling of tubes will result in an incorrect blood-to-additive ratio and can lead to incorrect analytic results or poor performance. If the draw volumes exceed the draw line imprinted on the tube (by 10% or more) BD recommends that you recollect the sample.

## *INCREASE IN CLIENT FEE SCHEDULE*

Metro Lab will institute a 3% increase in our Bill to Client Fee Schedule beginning with the June 1<sup>st</sup> billing cycle. It has been more than eight years since the last fee schedule increase. Over that time, Metro Lab has absorbed the price increases of reagents, tubes, and general procurement supplies in our effort to help clients' offer affordable billing options to their patients. Thank you for your understanding as we adjust this fee schedule.

## *UNITEDHEALTH CARE*

We made an announcement last fall about UnitedHealth Care (UHC) requiring prior authorization (PA) for a certain set of CPT codes. We have placed a link to those codes on our website, [www.MetroMedLab.com](http://www.MetroMedLab.com). When calling or checking for the PA, please record the UHC representative's name and/or decision, or a screen print that indicates next steps, and send that along with the order. This may eliminate a phone call back to your office asking for a PA confirmation or denial code. UHC has also issued a set of **allergy** diagnosis codes that meet medical necessity. You can find those codes under the UnitedHealth Care link on our website, right side, just under the ICD-10 Tool Box link. We are doing our best in keeping you up to date with CMS and private pay processing requirement changes.

## *MEDICAL NECESSITY*

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Metro Lab fully implemented a program to check diagnosis codes for Medicare patient orders for medical necessity **at the time of order entry**, before the test is performed. Client Service will call the office if the diagnosis code or codes did not meet medical necessity and the ordering physician will be given three options:

1. Provide another diagnosis code that meets medical necessity
2. Submit the patient's signed Advance Notice Beneficiary (ABN)
3. If unable to provide 1 or 2 from above and your office would still like the test performed, Metro Lab can perform that test or tests and bill your office accordingly.

If the office were to pass on all three options, Metro Lab would **not perform the requested test** and the specimen would be rejected.

## *NO NARRATIVES*

**Do not** submit a narrative diagnosis for a patient order. To process a claim through any insurance entity, a medically necessary code to the highest level of specificity should be used. You should be familiar with the different requirements / guidelines of private insurance and CMS.

## *POST EJACULATE URINALYSIS*

Post Ejaculate Urinalysis (**test code # 8029**) is now available to be ordered. Please see the description of the test, specimen, and transport requirements on our website. Type 8029 into the search bar under Test Guide and select the test on the left side.

## *SPECIMEN LOCK BOX*

With the on-set of summer knocking on our door, please remember those metal specimen lock boxes will heat up quickly, regardless if they are sitting in the sun or are partially shaded, while hanging on your door. Include an ice pack if your specimens need to be 'refrigerated'.

## *URINE COLLECTION CONTAMINATION*

Over the last year Microbiology has seen an increase in urine culture contamination. As a reminder, high urine culture contamination rates result from two things: poor specimen collection technique, prolonged handling/transport at non-refrigerator temperatures ( outside 2-8°C), or a combination of both. **Urine culture contamination can be reduced by providing the clean catch urine collection instructions to each patient** (*patients will provide a random void urine which is contaminated with urogenital flora when specific collection instructions are not provided*) **and by ensuring urine specimens are placed and maintained at refrigerated temperatures** immediately after collection and during storage/transport. Instructions for specimen collection are available on our website or by calling the Marketing Department at 309-762-8555 ext. 3611.

## *MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY*

Metro Lab will be closed on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to observe the holiday. Normal hours will be observed on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 a.m. until noon, and Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> with all locations open per their posted hours. Please plan accordingly.

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

**Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC**      **Quad Cities Pathologists, LLC**  
Moline – Davenport – Rock Island – Bettendorf – Silvis – Galesburg

*Your Health – Your Lab – Your Choice*