



Metro Lab Test Tips

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BNP vs. Pro-BNP

A BNP or a Pro-BNP are two specific tests primarily used to help detect, diagnose, and evaluate the severity of heart failure. Metro Lab performs the **Pro-BNP (test code 10080)** in-house with a quicker turn-around-time than the BNP, which is a send out. Both tests have specific reference ranges. As long as the same test is being ordered, performed, and resulted, that reference range will give aid in the prognosis/risk assessment for your patient. We have seen a BNP and a Pro-BNP order coming from the same office for the same patient for different testing days - possibly thinking it is the same test with the same reference range. A true assessment cannot be made if an office uses one range for the chart record and then the other range for the chart record. **Metro Lab CANNOT change an order.** Please be aware of which test you are ordering.

BD AFFIRM COLLECTION SWABS

A reminder from our Microbiology Department.

When collecting and preparing the collection media for the BD Affirm – please note that the collection swab has a ‘scored’ line on the swab (See picture insert with arrow pointing to ‘scored’ line). After collecting your specimen, place the whole swab in the transport tube and gently bend the swab over the side. You may want to place a finger on the top of the tube next to the swab to prevent the swab from coming out (Picture #2). The swab will snap clean and there should be a part of the swab just above the top of the transport tube (Picture #3). That portion of the swab, sticking above the transport tube, will go inside the cap of the specimen container when the cap is placed on top of the transport tube. Our Microbiology staff will remove the cap and the swab will be attached to the underside of the cap (Picture #4).



SPECIMEN LOCK BOX

If your office utilizes a Metal Specimen Lock Box, please note that the specimens do have temperature 'holding' requirements. Due to the design of the box we are finding refrigerated and room temp specimens on top of each other. To help resolve this issue and to ensure specimen integrity, Metro Lab will install a Styrofoam divider in client boxes that get used more frequently. The divider will help keep the specimens separated. Please use the divider as shown in the pictures below. If you are not sure what side the specimen goes on, 'refrigerated' or room temp, please visit our website. Under the test description it will list transport requirements.



Urine and blood on an ice pack with the divider pushed to the right.



Urine and blood on an ice pack, divider, and a blue top tube (room temp) on the right side.



Urine and blood on an ice pack, divider, Thin Prep vial (room temp) on the right Side.

DIAGNOSIS REVIEW

The Metro Lab Billing Department has seen a big improvement in the number of diagnosis codes that have been denied or need a diagnosis review. If you receive a call directly from your patient about their statement and your office would like to add or amend the submitted code, please use the Diagnosis Review Form posted on our website under the ICD-10 Tool Box Section. You can fax that form directly to our billing department. The ordering physician's signature is required when submitting a change or addition.

ICD-10 codes must be coded to the highest degree of specificity.

For further help with coding:

- Go to our website, www.MetroMedLab.com, and click on the ICD-10 Tool Box on the right hand side.
- Utilize the CMS Guide Book starting with the table of contents. Navigating the CMS Guide Book will aid in selecting the most appropriate diagnosis code.
- Utilize the other links in that tool box to understand what codes not to use. (Non-covered ICD-10 Codes for Lab NCD's).
- UnitedHealthCare has added their own sub-level of codes that they will accept and process. We have added a section for UHC and will continue to seek and post additional information.

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