



Lab Bulletin

LIS Enhances Laboratory Performance

NWCL invested several million dollars in replacing our Laboratory Information System (LIS) with Softlab, a state-of-the-art laboratory information system during November 2006. We are continuing to expand our use of additional Softlab functionality to improve laboratory processes to best meet the needs of referring physicians, healthcare providers, and patients.

Softlab's successful implementation provides the following benefits:

- Decreased turnaround time (TAT). Examples include the ability to send STAT results real-time to networked printer locations in the ER, inpatient units, and many key outpatient clinic locations. We also have new opportunities to significantly decrease inpatient morning draw TAT, a key issue for physicians serving this population.
- Delta flag alerts call attention to outlier results for Medical Technologist review.
- We have heightened our ability to manage calling result categories ranging from critical to STAT to physician request.
- A "paperless" TIQ (Test in Question) process allows issues to be resolved in a timely manner, with less re-draws.
- Softlab provides the ability to recognize and respond to physician's differing office hours and preferences for result delivery time.
- Audit trails are now possible at the patient Medical Record Number level. This new functionality strengthens our ability to perform issue resolution not just at the individual patient level, but to identify and rectify process breakdowns at the root cause level.



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TEST UPDATES

TEST NAME: BVSCR - BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS SCREEN - EFFECTIVE 3/7/2008

Test Includes:	Trichomonas vaginalis, Gardnerella vaginalis & Candida species
Related Test:	Wet Prep for Trichomonas and Yeast (Candida)
Container Type:	Collect vaginal specimen with BD Affirm VP III Ambient
Temperature Transport System:	Each collection kit is individually packages with a collection swab, transport vial, and transport media
Additional Information:	Specimens viable for up to 3 days at room temperature
Testing Frequency:	Run 7 days a week at 10 am
Routine turnaround time:	Test takes 2 hours to complete
STAT turnaround time:	Not available
Information Contact:	Microbiology Lab at (206) 368-1365
Explanation of Change:	Group test's new methodology Nucleic Acid Hybridization (DNA Probe) can replace wet prep for trichomonas and yeast. Wet prep still available real-time for urgent patient care needs.
Benefit:	Receive three tests rather than two, with increased sensitivity and specificity, i.e. reliability.

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Softlab results cross via computer interface into Soarian for physician review. Soarian Clinicals is Northwest Hospital's clinical data repository for laboratory results and imaging reports and images, dictations and discharge planning. For additional Soarian information, please contact Jan Radoslovich at jan.radoslovich@nwhsea.org or (206) 368.1312, or Mary Pat O'Donnell at mary.odonnell@nwhsea.org or (206) 368.1137. Please watch for additional Soarian information in next month's laboratory newsletter.

CAP Accreditation

Northwest Clinical Laboratory is fully accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). CAP sent a team of eight for an unannounced inspection of NWCL on February 28, 2008. The CAP team was also accompanied by two inspectors from the Washington State Department of Health. The State team not only validated the CAP inspection process, but carried out their own assessment of NWCL. This rigorous, voluntary inspection takes place every two years. CAP standards are in alignment with the Washington State, Federal CLIA and the Joint Commission standards. We are pleased to report the inspection was very successful, and validates the high caliber of both our staff and our processes. Please join us in congratulating our laboratory staff.

Business News:

BREAKING NEWS: CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid) announced March 3, 2008 that a new Laboratory ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice) form is required by September 1, 2008. The major change is that a "best estimate price" must be provided before the blood is drawn. Please contact your Laboratory Account Specialist (Barb Eneberg 206-368-1734 or April Stone 206-368-1746) if you require a Laboratory price list. New ABN forms will be provided before the deadline.

ABN's are required for patients when a limited coverage test is ordered, and "medical necessity guidelines" are not met. Coverage for limited coverage tests (denoted with a red asterisk on the requisition) is determined based on the ICD-9 used, which reflects the patient's signs, symptoms or history in the patient chart.

REQUISITION UPDATE: Based on client feedback, NWCL made the following changes to the requisition:

- **Column 1 – New Panel:** Added renal function panel
- **Column 1 –** Coagulation/ Hematology sections combined
- **Column 2 – New Test:** AFP (Alpha-Fetoprotein) added to Chemistry (*AFP is the tumor marker for patients who are not pregnant.*)
- **Column 2 –** Chemistry section reorganized alphabetically (test name length permitting)
- **Column 3 – New Test:** Maternal AFP (MAFET) added to Prenatal section

Please note the **back ply** of the form includes the following:

- Panel and profile test component descriptions
- Reflexive testing sequences
- Tube legends

For best patient care, adhere the sticker from the lower left-hand corner of the requisition to any specimen collected in-office. As a patient safety 'best practice', please also write the patient's name on the label.

Additional requisitions may be ordered from the Laboratory at (206) 368-1776, or by completing a laboratory supply request form. The latest version of the requisition is dated "REV. 11/07" vertically in the left-hand margin. You may continue to send older version requisitions.

Laboratory Main Number (Client Services)

Please call (206) 368-1776 with your testing, supply, courier and billing inquiries.

Locations - For a downloadable map with addresses, hours and directions, please visit www.nwhospital.org.

**Main Campus
Main Laboratory**
North Tower
Ph: (206) 368.1344

**Northwest Outpatient
Medical Center**
Ph: (206) 368.6164

**McMurray
Medical Building**
Northwest Hospital
Ph: (206) 368.3005

Medical Arts Building
Northwest Hospital
Ph: (206) 368.6539

**Northcut Landing
Building**
Phone: (206) 368.5892