

January 9, 2015

**Important test changes – National Jewish Health Mycobacteriology Laboratory**

Dear Valued Client:

There is much activity at National Jewish Health Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories and we want to make sure you are aware of some important test changes.

**1. Slowly growing nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) antimicrobial susceptibility testing change**

**The slowly growing NTM antimicrobial susceptibility testing panels NTM1 and NTM2 will be replaced with a single new 10-Drug MIC *plus* antimicrobial testing panel.**

Recently the Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories Mycobacteriology Laboratory reached out to several key opinion leaders in NTM treatment to determine relevant compounds for patient treatment. Opinion leaders agreed that testing for Kanamycin, Ethionamide and Cycloserine were no longer routinely necessary; however, it was recommended to add Linezolid. In addition, after reviewing historical data, often our clients ordered the current 8-Drug minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) panel (NTM1), with the addition of Moxifloxacin and Linezolid.

Based on this feedback, **as of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, the Mycobacteriology Laboratory will no longer offer the 8-Drug MIC (NTM1) or 12-Drug MIC (NTM2) testing panels. Instead, the laboratory will offer a 10-Drug MIC *plus* panel including the following compounds.

10-Drug MIC <i>plus</i> Panel	
Rifampin	Ethambutol
Ciprofloxacin	Moxifloxacin
Amikacin	Streptomycin
Rifabutin	Linezolid
Clarithromycin	Clofazimine*
Rifampin/Ethambutol combination testing	

\*agar proportion methodology

The Mycobacteriology Laboratory will perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing for *Mycobacterium avium* complex and other slowly growing NTM strains with a microdilution methodology instead of utilizing a macrobroth-based system. This new methodology will not only offer a more concise testing panel to healthcare providers, but also help reduce testing turnaround time.

The list price will be \$360.00 for the 10-Drug MIC *plus* panel which includes the Rifampin/Ethambutol combination testing. The CPT codes for this new panel will be 87181 and 87186 x 2. As of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, any requisition received with the old 8-Drug or 12-Drug MIC testing requests will be changed to the 10-Drug MIC *plus* panel. Prior to March 8<sup>th</sup> an updated requisition will be available on our website with new test codes.

## 2. Single Drug MIC NTM Testing

Concurrent with the move to the 10-Drug MIC *plus* panel, our single drug MIC NTM testing cost structure will change. NTM3 (slowly growing NTM species) and NTM5 (rapidly growing NTM species) pricing for the FIRST single drug MIC ordered will be \$60.00. Pricing will remain the same at \$43.05 for each additional compound ordered. Pricing for our Rifampin/Ethambutol combination testing, which includes individual MIC values for Rifampin and Ethambutol, will change to \$95.00. Below is a summary of test pricing and CPT codes.

Test Pricing and CPT codes		
Panel	Price	CPT codes
10-Drug MIC <i>plus</i> Panel	\$360.00	87181, 87186x2
Single Drug MIC (NTM3, NTM5)	First Drug \$60.00 Additional Drug \$43.05	87186 – microtiter methodology 87171 - Clofazimine ONLY
RIF/EMB Combination Testing	\$95.00	87186

## 3. Rapidly growing NTM antimicrobial susceptibility testing

We would also like to remind our clients that the Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories Mycobacteriology Laboratory also performs antimicrobial susceptibility testing on rapidly growing Mycobacterium species. We offer a 15-Drug MIC panel (NTM4) with the following compounds. Pricing is \$278.30 and the CPT code is 87186.

15-Drug MIC		
Amikacin	Ciprofloxacin	Azithromycin
Kanamycin	Doxycycline	Augmentin
Tobramycin	Moxifloxacin	Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole
Cefoxitin	Tigecycline	Linezolid
Imipenem	Clarithromycin	Clofazimine
Clofazimine/Amikacin combination testing		

## 4. Identification of *M. tuberculosis* complex

We have also updated our testing algorithm for all liquid cultures to ensure rapid detection of *M. tuberculosis* complex. A line probe assay (MTB7) to rule in or out the presence of *M. tuberculosis* and other members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex will be performed on ALL liquid cultures submitted without preliminary identification unless a clinical history indicating NTM is provided with the specimen on the requisition form. Associated testing costs of \$194.25 may apply (CPT code 87556).

We appreciate your continued support of National Jewish Health Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories. Please contact our Client Services team at 800.550.6227 (option 6) if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these changes.

Sincerely,



Max Salfinger, MD, FIDSA, FAAM  
Interim Executive Director & Laboratory Director, Mycobacteriology & Pharmacokinetics  
National Jewish Health Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories