



# LAB-LINK

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**Health Network Laboratories**  
**2024 Lehigh Street**  
**Allentown, PA 18103**  
**877-402-4221 • [www.healthnetworklabs.com](http://www.healthnetworklabs.com)**

As your laboratory partner, Health Network Laboratories is pleased to keep you connected to new and updated laboratory testing information.

**For the most current testing information, please remember to access our lab handbook on-line at:**

**[www.healthnetworklabs.com](http://www.healthnetworklabs.com)**

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CPT (Current & Procedural Terminology) is a trademark of the AMA. Codes listed are guidelines and are for informational purposes only. Coding questions should be directed to the third party payor and/or the AMA. OIG guidelines recommend tests ordered should be reasonable and necessary for the patient, given their clinical condition. Physicians who order medically unnecessary tests for which Medicare reimbursement is claimed may be subject to penalties. Individual components of profiles or panels may be ordered individually at an additional charge. Physicians who consider Reflex testing unnecessary may order an initial test without the Reflexed test. Reflex or confirmation tests are performed at an additional charge.



<b>Test Name/Subject</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### MRSA SCREENING SPECIMEN COLLECTION

In the October 2011 *Lab Link*, Health Network Laboratories announced that Patient Service Centers (PSCs) will collect Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) screening specimens. Please be aware some insurances will not cover this screening test and some patients may receive a bill from HNL for non-covered services.

Patients will be asked to sign either a Statement of Financial Responsibility or an Advanced Beneficiary Notice (for Medicare patients) when presenting at one of our PSCs for this test.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### New GFR Calculation

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is recommending that clinical laboratories should be using the CKD-EPI equation to report estimated GFR (glomerular filtration rate). <sup>1</sup>Health Network Laboratories will switch from the MDRD (Modification of Diet in Renal Disease) calculation to the CKD-EPI calculation effective December 15th, 2011.

The CKD – EPI calculation is as accurate as the MDRD equation for those patients with an estimated GFR of < 60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> and more accurate for those patients with an estimated GFR of > 60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

Calculations:

SEX	Serum Creatinine (IDMS traceable)	Equation
Female	≤ 0.70 mg/dL	GFR= 144 x (sCr/0.70) <sup>-0.329</sup> x (0.993) <sup>Age</sup>
Female	≤ 0.70 mg/dL	GFR= 144 x (sCr/0.70) <sup>-1.209</sup> x (0.993) <sup>Age</sup>
Male	≤ 0.90 mg/dL	GFR= 141 x (sCr/0.90) <sup>-0.411</sup> x (0.993) <sup>Age</sup>
Male	≤ 0.90 mg/dL	GFR= 141 x (sCr/0.90) <sup>-1.209</sup> x (0.993) <sup>Age</sup>

- S<sub>Cr</sub> equals the serum creatinine result.
- For African Americans multiple reported GFR by 1.16

#### Notes:

- Equation calculator can be found on the intranet websites such as, [www.kidney.org/gfr](http://www.kidney.org/gfr)
- The CKD-EPI has not been validated for individuals of the ages < 18 years old or those individuals >97 years old.

For more information, please contact Melanie Ritter at 877-402-4221.

#### References:

1. National Kidney Foundation, “Frequently Asked Questions about GFR Estimates”, [www.kidney.org/gfr](http://www.kidney.org/gfr), 2010
2. Levey, A.S., et.al., “A New Equation to Estimate Glomerular Filtration Rate:”, Ann. Int. Med., Vol 150, No 9 2009; pp 604 - 613

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Health Network Laboratories Announces New Influenza Testing for 2011-2012 Flu Season

Health Network Laboratories is pleased to announce the introduction of two new molecular assays for the detection of Influenza A & B and RSV: Influenza A&B and RSV PCR (Test Code: FLABR) and Influenza A&B PCR (Test Code: FLAB). These tests have significantly higher sensitivity, specificity and accuracy than the rapid Influenza Antigen test (EIA)\*. Influenza A is not subtyped with these tests.

	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Specificity</b>	<b>Accuracy</b>
<b>Flu A</b>	100%	99.3%	100%
<b>Flu B</b>	100%	99.8%	98.5-100%
<b>RSV</b>	98%	97%	100%

Both tests will be set-up multiple times throughout the day. Most specimens will have same-day TAT. The last set-up is 8:00pm M-F and 5:00pm Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Specimens received after these times will be resulted by 10:00am the following morning.

All positive test results will be called by HNL's Customer Care department to the ordering physician, unless otherwise requested. To request a change to this call-back procedure, please contact your sales representative at 610-402-5070.

<b>Test Names:</b>	Influenza A&B and RSV PCR	Influenza A&B PCR
<b>Test Codes:</b>	FLABR	FLAB
<b>Specimen Collection:</b>	Specimen for all respiratory viral assays is a <u>nasopharyngeal</u> swab collected with a flock swab and placed in a universal transport media (UTM). Collection kit and instructions will be provided by HNL.	
<b>Availability</b>	November 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012	

#### Other Respiratory Viral Tests Offered by HNL include:

- Respiratory Viral Panel PCR (Test Code: RVPPR) – available year round; detects 12 respiratory viruses including:
  - Influenza A (H1, H3, and probable 2009 H1N1); Influenza B; RSV A&B; Parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3; Adenovirus; Rhinovirus; and Human Metapneumovirus.
- Respiratory Viral Culture (Test Code RVCU) – available year round; detects seven respiratory viruses including:
  - Influenza A; Influenza B; RSV; Parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3; and Adenovirus
  - Will not detect Rhinovirus or Human Metapneumovirus
- RSV rapid antigen testing (Test Code: DRSV) – available during RSV season only

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **HIV Handbook Alert**

There was an omission in the printed version of the Laboratory Handbook for HIV testing.

HNL offers two options for HIV screening with reflex testing to Western Blot when appropriate:

1. HIV 1 and 2 Antibody Profile (Order Code: HIV12)
2. HIV 1 and 2 Antibody and Antigen Profile (Order Code: HIVAA).

Please remember to always refer to our Lab Handbook on the Health Network Laboratories web page address - [www.healthnetworklabs.com](http://www.healthnetworklabs.com) - for the most up to date testing information.