



QUALITY UPDATE

A monthly publication providing information and updates to CompuNet Clients.

Mission: Improve the Health of Our Community through Excellence in Medical Laboratory Services

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Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH)

By Kathy Mannier – Compliance Officer

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) was part of the Economic Stimulus Plan and expands patient privacy protections originally implemented by HIPAA. Protected Health Information (PHI) breach notification requirement is part of HITECH. The regulations require HIPAA covered entities to report to the patient if their PHI in oral, written or electronic form has been acquired, accessed, used or disclosed and it is determined that the privacy or security of the PHI was compromised.

The following information is required for patient notification:

- A brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery, if known;
- A description of the types of unsecured PHI that were involved in the breach;
- Any steps individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach;
- A brief description of what the Company is doing to investigate the breach, to mitigate harm to individuals, and to protect against any further breaches;
- Contact procedures for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, which must include a toll-free telephone number, an e-mail address, web site or postal address; and

In the unlikely event CompuNet would need to notify a patient of a privacy breach, due to clerical error originating in your physician office, we will contact you. We will also send you a copy of the letter, which we are required by law, to send to the patient.

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HITECH *continued from Page 1*

At CompuNet, privacy of the patient protected health information (PHI) has been and continues to be a high priority. We routinely audit system security, update databases and conduct on-going staff education to reduce the likelihood of an “accidental disclosure” or a privacy breach.

You can help us ensure the privacy of your patients’ records by including area codes for all “call” and “fax” numbers and providing the first and last name and the complete mailing address when you want a duplicate report sent to another physician.

If you have questions please contact your CompuNet account representative or Kathy Mannier, Compliance Officer at 937-297-8272.

PCR Testing for Detection of Group A Streptococcus

Nicole Kahmann, Molecular Diagnostics/Virology Manager

As of November 20, 2009, the Molecular Diagnostics Department at CompuNet Clinical Laboratories will discontinue offering the **PCR test for detection of Group A Streptococcus**. [Test order # 74272]. Some insurance companies, for example – Aetna, do not pay for the PCR Strep. A test and hold the patient responsible for paying at full price. Due to these reimbursement issues the volume of test orders has greatly decreased and it is no longer feasible for CompuNet to perform the Group A Strep. PCR.

Clients still have two test choices for detection of Group A Streptococcus:

Test order # 282: Group A Strep DNA Probe is a non-amplified DNA probe specific to Group A Strep DNA. Turn-around time is 24 hours.

Test order # 3961: Throat culture. Turn-around time 2 to 4 days.
Both of these tests are offered seven days a week.

For more information regarding Group A Streptococcus testing, please contact:
Nicole Kahmann, Molecular Diagnostics/Virology Manager at 297-8338 *or*
Ike Northern, Microbiology Manager at 297-8334.

Lab Results Available for Multiple Physicians

Angela Henry – Client Services Team Leader

When you would like to make copies of your patients’ lab results available to other physicians, there are several ways to do so. In order to request additional copies, please be sure to include **1)** the other physician’s first and last name, **2)** their complete address, and **3)** their phone number with area code.

- If your office places laboratory orders through Care360, when entering an order you may request copies to be sent by clicking “Add Recipients” in the box labeled “Additional Copies”.
- If your office submits the CompuNet handwritten requisition, you may enter the request in the box provided on the requisition.
- If your office sends patients to one of CompuNet Patient Service Centers include the request on the order to be presented by the patient.

If you are a physician requesting results that were ordered by another physician you may contact our Client Services department at (937)297-8260 and request a faxed copy. Please be prepared to provide **1)** patients first and last name, **2)** date of birth, **3)** the ordering physician’s name and, **4)** requesting physician’s name and/or account number.

When Patients Request Their Own Lab Results

Patients are becoming more interested in receiving their own test results. Physicians may request a copy of the results be sent to the patient at the time of order.

Patients may also request a copy of their own results when being drawn at a Patient Service Center. They must complete the “**Requests for Results Authorization Form**” and either select the “mail to” section or the “fax to” section. If “mailed to” is chosen, the results will be mailed to the billing address in Care 360. If “fax to” is chosen, the patient will be required to supply a secure fax number.

Patients may also request a copy of their results at a later date by completing a “**Request To Access Protected Health Information Form**” that can be obtained by calling CompuNet Client Services department at 937-297-8260.

H1N1 November 2009 Update

Nicole Kahmann, Virology and Molecular Diagnostics Manager

Please check the CompuNet Clinical Laboratories website www.compunetlab.com for the most up-to-date H1N1 testing information.

The following is information to guide you should you have a patient exhibiting flu symptoms and your suspect H1N1:

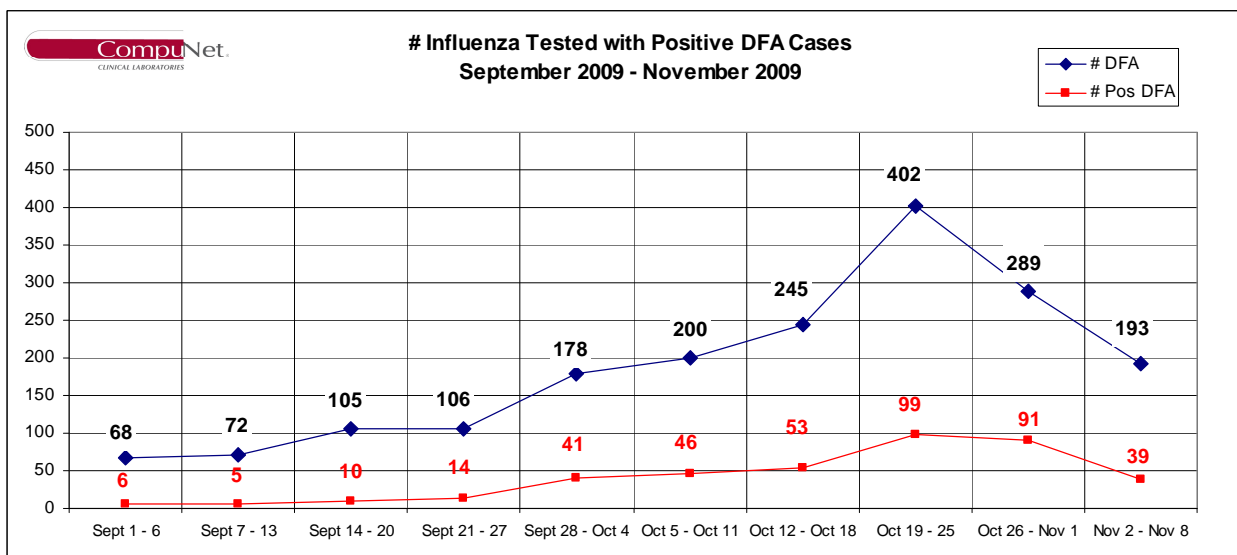
- Specimen should be collected using a nasal swab and Viral Transport Medium collection device. VTM specimen collection devices can be obtained from CompuNet's Supply department. (Due to sudden demand there may be limited availability of testing supplies for initial Influenza A screening. To conserve testing resources for suspected cases of H1N1, clinicians are asked to carefully evaluate patients according to the most current guidance provided by Centers for Disease Control. For more information see CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/>.)
- Order both Influenza A DFA and Influenza B DFA
 - Influenza A DFA order code: 73472
 - Influenza B DFA order code: 73706

CompuNet will report positive and negative test results for Influenza A and Influenza B within 24 hours.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ODH GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 30, 2009

ODH will only perform pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza A testing on individuals hospitalized with ILI who tested negative on rapid influenza diagnostic test.

The graph below shows the number of cases tested in CompuNet's Virology Department. The darker line is the total number of cases with the lighter line showing those with a positive DFA. These numbers are tracked daily beginning September 1, 2009. The trend line for each is statistical based on the latest week of data. At this point, it appears our peak was during the week of October 19 – 25, 2009.



Vitamin D,1,25-Dihydroxy and Vitamin D,1,25-Dihydroxy, LC/MS/MS Test Code Changes

Vitamin D,1,25-Dihydroxy	
Effective Date:	October 12, 2009
Test Code:	4729 (discontinued test code)
Additional Information:	This test code will be discontinued on October 12, 2009. The recommended alternative is test code 16558 - Vitamin D, 1, 25-Dihydroxy, LC/MS/MS.
Vitamin D,1,25-Dihydroxy, LC/MS/MS	
Effective Date:	October 12, 2009
Test Code:	16558 (new test code)
CPT Code:	82652
Set-Up/Analytic Time:	Set up Mon - Sat PM; reports 6 days
Performing Site:	Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute
Specimen Requirements:	2 mL serum (1.2 mL minimum) Collect blood in an SST tube or red-top tube. Allow blood to clot (30 minutes) at room temperature Centrifuge and separate the serum from the cells.

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