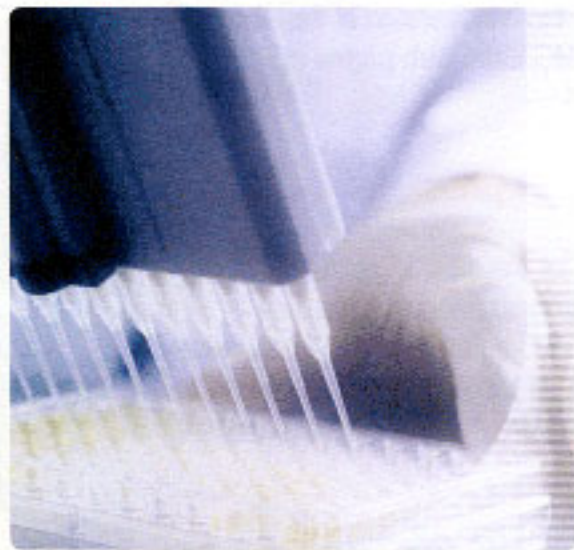


October/November 2006



## Lab News

### **New Lab Operations Manager Named**

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Doreen McGovern, M.B.A., CLDir (NCA), M.T. (ASCP) has been promoted from Chemistry Manager to Operations Manager.

### **Holiday Schedule**

*Veterans Day, Nov. 10th:* Courier & phlebotomy depts. will be operating as a regular day.

*Thanksgiving & Christmas & New Year Days, Nov. 23, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> & Jan 1st:* Holidays are observed and courier & phlebotomy depts. will be on call for stats only.

If your office is closing early for holidays or inclement weather, please contact us at 978-354-4134.

### **Long Term Care Infection Control Workshop**

Pneumonia is a major cause of death among the elderly. This program will focus on the epidemiology of pneumonia in long-term care and clinical features of infection in the elderly. Strategies for prevention of nosocomial pneumonia will be presented with an emphasis on the CDC Guidelines for Prevention of Nosocomial Pneumonia and the ACIP recommendations for pneumococcal and influenza vaccines. 2.4 CEUs.

**When:** Thursday, October 26th, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Where:** NSMC Salem Hospital, Davenport Bld., 1<sup>st</sup> flr, Conference Room 102B

**Cost:** Flat fee of \$50 per facility

*To register, please call Wendy Daigle at 978-354-4119*

### **NSMC Labs offers the Fetal Fibronectin Test**

fFN test is a proven tool to help an obstetrician manage women with elevated risk of preterm delivery. Testing at 24 weeks and 28 weeks of gestation in women with risk factors of PTD will help the physician make decisions regarding the need for intervention, the frequency of care, and other decisions that are commonly made in this population.

In a study by the NICHD, women with a history of preterm delivery were tested for fFN, cervical length by TVUS, and obstetric history. Recurrence risk was highest among women with a positive fFN test, and a shortened cervix (65%). Risk was lowest among fFN negative patients, and a normal cervical length (7%). The fFN test was the single most powerful predictor of risk of recurrence.<sup>1</sup>

#### ***fFN test results at 24 and 28 weeks clearly defines two populations<sup>1</sup>:***

##### ***Women at Risk for PTD FFN Test***

##### ***24 weeks and 28 weeks:***

- ***FFN normal (-)***  
***13% risk***
- ***FFN elevated (+)***  
***48% risk***

Testing is available 24 hours per day/ 7 days per week. Turnaround time upon arrival of specimen is one hour.

1: Iams JD et al. The Preterm Prediction Study: recurrence risk of spontaneous preterm birth. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1998;178:1035-1040



## Compliance Corner

JCAHO has recently clarified its "two patient identifier" 2005 patient safety goal, and requires that all specimens be labeled with a minimum of 2 patient identifiers, and these identifiers should be directly applied to all specimen containers (blood test tubes, collection device for cultures, etc) in the presence of the patient. One identifier should be the patient's complete name, and the second should be a unique identifier for the patient (i.e. DOB, medical record number, etc). The second identifier cannot be location, patient bed number, etc.

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### Contact Us:

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866-NSMC LAB  
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nsmclabs@partners.org

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## New Client Lab Manuals

We are in the process of finalizing edits to the October 2006, Tenth Edition of the laboratory manual. The new manuals will be distributed in November. Please discard your current version and replace with the new version at that time. The current version may also be found on the NSMC Labs web pages at <http://nsmc.partners.org>

## Influenza Testing

The Microbiology Dept. performs a rapid test for the qualitative detection of Influenza A & B viral antigens from nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes or swabs. The nasopharyngeal samples have sensitivities ranging from the 89-96% for Influenza A and 71 – 88% for Influenza B with aspirates being more sensitive than swabs and washes. Testing is available seven days a week from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Collection Guidelines:

- Hospital Patients: Swabs will be distributed as each collection is required.
- Nursing Homes: Please call us for swabs. We will provide 2 – 5 swabs at a time. Should you require testing a large portion of your patients, please contact the DPH Epidemiologist at 617-983-6800.
- Outpatients: Once influenza has been documented in the community tests do not need to be done on all patients with symptoms of the flu. A clinical diagnosis can be made for patients with signs and symptoms. For patients seen in ambulatory care settings, tests are most useful when they are likely to help with diagnostic and treatment decisions. We can provide 1-2 collection swabs should you need them.

To order collection swabs or for testing questions, please call us at 978-354-4134. For additional information visit: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## NSMC Laboratories Custom Alert and Critical Values

Did you know that NSMC Laboratories offers custom alert and critical values that can be defined by our physicians, long-term care practitioners and others? This service has been available for the past 12 months and has been well received by those practitioners requesting the service. It allows the client to define alert clinical lab values and how they want to be contacted.

The system is totally computerized and each client's values are programmed into our laboratory information system. Any result that qualifies is flagged by our computer system and the result along with physician contact information is automatically sent to our client call center. The results are then either called or faxed depending on the client preference.

All call information is recorded as part of the electronic record and appears at the top of all laboratory reports. This is especially useful for documentation purposes and help meet DPH requirements. If you are interested in setting up custom alert values or just want to hear more please contact Wendy Daigle at 978-354-4119.