

**FRONTLINE
LABORATORY
NETWORK**

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*Frontline Laboratory
Network is a partnership
of local laboratories
working together to meet
the healthcare needs of
our communities.*

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FRONTLINE
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Newsletter for Medical Professionals

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Mumps Serology Update

The recent increase in numbers of confirmed mumps cases in the Midwest has resulted in patients seeking answers from their physicians regarding mumps serology screening. Studies have shown that 95% of people receiving two MMR doses will be protected. This means that 5 out of every 100 persons will remain susceptible even after receiving the double mumps vaccination. Protective immunity from the MMR vaccine wanes over time and is influenced by a variety of factors (immune status, age, presence of concurrent illnesses, etc.), but seropositivity has been demonstrated to be retained in the majority of patients for at least nine years after vaccination. The presence of mumps IgG antibodies indicates prior mumps infection or an adequate immune response to the vaccine and so is therefore considered immune. Acute mumps infection is confirmed by the presence of mumps IgM or a four-fold rise in mumps IgG titer between acute and convalescent serum titers. If you, your staff member(s) or your patient(s) has been exposed to a confirmed case of mumps, specific IgG testing is recommended to assess immune status. Healthcare workers with a negative immune status that have been exposed to a confirmed case of mumps are generally furloughed from day 12 to 26 after exposure and administered the MMR vaccine. Frontline Laboratory Network laboratories provide a full menu of mumps serologic testing so that you can provide the best care for your patients and staff.

CDC Considers Routine HIV Testing

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention is considering a recommendation to revise HIV testing guidelines. This revision would include the recommendation that physicians begin to offer voluntary HIV tests as part of routine medical care, like glucose and cholesterol screening, for everyone in the United States aged 13 to 64. Current recommendations are aimed at lifestyle or risk groups which would be eliminated with this revision. Also eliminated would be the required signature for current informed consent for HIV testing and the often lengthy pretest counseling requirement. The aim of these recommendations by CDC is to simplify the process and broaden the scope of testing so that infected people can be reached as early as possible. It is estimated that as many as 25% of the current HIV positive population may not know they are HIV positive so do not receive the care they need and may unknowingly infect many others. Early diagnosis can lead to treatment resulting in longer life as well as the reduction in spread of infection. Early detection and treatment has resulted in the decline of HIV in newborns due to routine testing and treatment of pregnant women. CDC may also recommend that states switch to reporting positive cases by name rather than the current alpha-numeric codes. This has opponents concerned about privacy breaches and the potential loss of jobs and the possibility of higher insurance premiums or loss of coverage if HIV is treated as a pre-existing condition. Proponents state that the Americans with Disabilities Act defines HIV as a disability and as such, employers cannot discriminate against an employee infected with the virus. Recommendations from CDC do not force Federal or state law, but they do alert physicians and insurance companies to new standards for care and reimbursement. Complete HIV testing services are available through your local FLN Laboratory.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA Testing

It has been well documented since the 1970's that Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the causative agent for cases of cervical cancer. As recently as three years ago, the FDA approved HPV DNA testing in combination with cervical cytology as a primary cervical cancer screening tool for women 30 years of age and older. HPV DNA testing combined with Pap testing provides a highly sensitive targeted screen for identifying women with increased risk of cervical cancer. One of the most effective ways to reduce cervical cancer in the United States is to increase the number of women who are screened for the disease. Screening frequency guidelines have been revised by both the American Cancer Society and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to reflect advances in screening technologies as well as in the use of HPV DNA testing. The combination of a Pap with HPV testing increases the sensitivity of having a Pap alone and can identify women who possibly have long-term persistent infections and are thus at higher risk for the development of cancer precursor lesions and cervical cancer. HPV DNA testing is available through your local FLN laboratory.

Did you know??

Frontline Laboratory Network (FLN) Laboratories have **never** received any legal and/or governmental actions consummated against an FLN Laboratory, director, officer or employees, related to, among other things fraud, recovery of claims, Medicare/Medicaid sanctions and/or state licensure. When you choose an FLN laboratory for your laboratory provider of choice, you can rest assured that FLN meets or exceeds all state and Federal compliance regulations. This ensures that you and your patients are never at liability due to the quality business practices of your FLN laboratory.

Fungal Eye Infections in Contact Lens Wearers

Recently a fungus commonly found in plant material and soil in tropical and subtropical area is causing eye infections in contact lens users. Increased fusarium infections have been identified in the United States, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. The CDC is currently monitoring infection levels in several U.S. states. The question remains why all of a sudden this fungus has targeted contact lens wearers when in the past it had not. Diagnosis requires a lab culture and may take weeks to grow in sufficient quantities to be identified. Left untreated or misdiagnosed as a bacterial infection can cause blindness.

Medical Identity Thefts On The Rise

We all know about identity theft but there is a new twist to watch out for, and it's on the rise. Medical identity theft is when a false name or insurance information is used in order to receive medical treatment, buy prescription drugs or get reimbursed by insurance companies for services you never received. The worst part is that a patient could potentially be treated based on false entries from someone else's medical history in a patient's medical record. A Colorado man was contacted by a collection agency to pay \$44,000 for a surgery someone else had received under his name. Some patients uncover medical identity theft because an insurance company denies a claim that has put them over their insurance limit or may be denied a job due to false mental diagnosis. The World Privacy Forum has issued a report estimating medical identity theft had occurred to 250,000-500,000 consumers so far. People can protect themselves by requesting an itemization of benefits paid for the previous year by their insurance company and reviewing it for any discrepancies. An annual review of your own medical record is another easy way to determine if there has been a theft of your medical identity. If errors are discovered, the medical record should be amended by including a detailed explanation that disputes all wrong information— not by just deleting the information. Wrong information could potentially also be on other records from other sources so a clear statement disputing the wrong information is important.

Billing Inquiries: 1-866-411-6952

If your patient has any questions about their statement from FLN, our team of friendly customer service representatives are available to help them Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 5:30 pm and Friday 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Visit us at www.frontlinelabs.com

FLN is a **Preferred Provider** for the following health plans:

- Anthem (PPO, POS, Indemnity Plan)
- Great West Healthcare
- HMO Colorado
- HMS Colorado
- PacifiCare (HMO,PPO)
- United Healthcare



FLN Benefits

- Access to convenient patient service centers
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- Same day testing
- Easy access to local consultation
- Friendly customer service
- After hours critical result notification
- Customized solutions based on your needs
- Specialized testing is referred to Mayo Medical Laboratories, reference laboratory for Mayo Clinic

