University of Virginia Health System

**Medical Laboratories**

***“Quality You Expect, Service You Deserve”***

***LABORATORY MEDICINE UPDATE***

January 16, 2017

**Reminder: Correct Order of Draw – Different for venipuncture *versus* Skin Puncture**

The correct order of draw/fill of blood tubes is critical to reducing pre-analytical errors for laboratory testing. The correct order for venipuncture *versus* skin puncture is provided below as a reminder.

**Venipuncture**:

* Blood Culture Bottles
* Blue (sodium citrate)
* Red top (no anticoagulant)
* Gold top SST (serum separator)
* Tiger Top SST (silica clot activator serum separator)
* Light Green (lithium heparin gel separator)
* Dark Green (sodium heparin)
* Lavender/Pink (K-EDTA)
* Gray (sodium fluoride, potassium oxalate)
* Anything else



**Skin puncture such as a heel stick or finger stick**:

* Lavender (K-EDTA)
* Light Green (lithium heparin gel separator)
* Any other additive tube
* Gold SST (serum separator)

**Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis Panel**

The Medical Labs offers one assay for Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis, which is sent to Mayo.  The method is Immunoassay FEIA and includes IgG to Alternaria tenuis / alternata, Aspergillus fumigatus, Aureobasidium pullulans, Micropolyspora faeni, Penicillium Chrysogenum / notatum, Phoma betae, Thermoactinomyces vulgaris, Trichoderma viride.    The Epic test name and number is listed in the global and preference list as Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis Panel LAB4208.  The in-house hypersensitivity profile and aspergillus assay by immunodiffusion has been discontinued.

**Methylmalonic Acid**

 The Toxicology Laboratory is now performing methylmalonic acid in-house twice a week.  The assay is performed by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and is beneficial in evaluating children with signs and symptoms of methylmalonic acidemia or individuals with signs and symptoms of vitamin B12 deficiency.  The assay requires 1 gold top tube and is performed on serum.  The reference interval is <0.4nmol/mL.