



THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES
630 HART LANE
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February 16, 2010

Dear Hospital/Laboratory Director:

During the past several months, we have been reviewing the services offered at the Central Laboratory under the Division of Laboratory Services. In order to pursue those areas of service that are directly related to Public Health, effective March 15, 2010, we will make the following changes:

1. There are no required fungal or Actinomycete cultures or isolates under the notifiable diseases category so effective this date, we will no longer process cultures or isolates for identification except:
 - a. Possible or confirming cases of Histoplasmosis
In these cases, we will perform a culture and DNA Probe to confirm definitive identification. A charge will be administered to the referral facility for these services. The specific codes and charges are listed below.
 - b. Possible or confirming cases of Blastomycosis
In these cases, we will perform a culture and DNA Probe to confirm definitive identification. A charge will be administered to the referral facility for these services. The specific codes and charges are listed below.
2. Regarding primary AFB cultures received, if a Mycobacteria is not isolated but an Actinomycete is isolated, we will perform identification of the Actinomycete as appropriate. We will charge the facility or the patient's carrier for these services.

| <u>Test</u> | <u>CPT</u> | <u>Charge to Facility/Insurance</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mycology Culture | 87101 | \$11.26 |
| Mycology Culture | 87102 | \$12.26 |
| Mycology Culture (Blood) | 87103 | \$15.07 |
| DNA Probe for | | |
| Histoplasma | 87800 | \$58.56 |
| Blasto | 87800 | \$58.56 |
| Yeast ID (Definitive) | 87106 | \$15.07 |
| Mold ID (Definitive) | 87107 | \$15.07 |
| Actinomyctes ID (Definitive) | 87077 | \$11.80 |

As a reminder, all Mycobacterial isolates are required referral to the State Public Health Laboratory and there is no charge for this testing. In addition, *Coccidioides posadasii*/*Coccidioides immitis* are on the Select Agent List and must be referred for confirmation, although these are not notifiable diseases and are not processed as a routine fungus culture. There is no charge administered for confirming select agents.

For facilities that refer Histo and Blasto specimens for definitive identification, we request full billing demographics if the facility is not to be billed. These are not required to be referred to the State Public Health Laboratory and referral to a commercial lab for definitive identification is an option. We will continue identifying these by DNA Probe.

Respectfully,



David L. Smalley, Ph.D., M.S.S., BCLD
 Director, Division of Laboratory Services