



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008

IRL INFORMS

5361 NW 33rd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

WELCOME TO IRL INFORMS!

As an Integrated Regional Laboratories (IRL) client, you will periodically receive this newsletter with information that we believe will benefit your practice. We also welcome your suggestions on topics you would like to read about in future editions.

In our initial issue, we would like to introduce our new Medical Director, Dr. Marcelino Alvarez, tell you about new technology, Free T4, give you a brief insurance plan update, and inform you on the importance and use of test requisitions.

We hope you find this information helpful for all your laboratory needs. Feel free to contact us at:

IRLB.IRLINFORMS@HCAHealthcare.com

For additional information on our laboratory, please visit our website at:

www.IRLFL.com

FREE T4 MOVES TO NEW METHODOLOGY

In February IRL began performing the Free T4 assay on our new Siemens Vista analyzers. The Vista utilizes a new LOCI™ reagent technology. This patented chemiluminescence technology decreases the probability of interference from endogenous substances and the risk of nonspecific binding. This new technology, while delivering excellent assay sensitivity, also supports a wide measuring range. The LOCI™ reagents utilize two synthetic bead reagents and a biotinylated analyte receptor. One bead contains a photosensitive dye. The other bead contains a chemiluminescent dye as the signal generating component. The illumination of the bead aggregated immunocomplex by light releases a singlet oxygen, which triggers a chemiluminescent reaction. The emission level is directly proportional to analyte concentration. In summary, the use of the LOCI™ technology provides excellent sensitivity, precision, turnaround time, and dynamic range suitable for Free T4 testing.



Free T4! Free T4!

FREE T4 BILLING ALERT:

National Correct Coding Initiative Edit for Free T4 (CPT Code 84439)

Free T4 is not covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most 3rd party payers **when ordered on the same day** as a Total T4 (84436), a T3 uptake (84479) or a T4 uptake (84479). Please help us avoid having your patients' claims denied. Follow the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) recommendations and order TSH and Free T4 when screening for both hyper- and hypothyroidism. We recommend you discuss the latest CPT coding instructions with your Billing or Compliance Officer.



MEET OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR

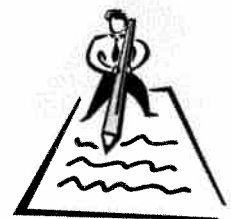
Dr. Marcelino Alvarez serves as IRL's Medical Director and brings over 23 years of pathology experience in both hospital and commercial laboratory settings to our organization. He has been a CAP Inspector since 1989 and works closely with HCA hospital-based pathologists to coordinate laboratory clinical efforts, maintain a focus on quality and patient safety, and enhance laboratory services. Dr. Alvarez states, "I am excited to be a part of a dynamic organization such as IRL and look forward to further expanding our test menu capabilities in areas such as flow cytometry and molecular pathology. Being part of an integrated regional service delivery model allows me to be on the cutting edge of new technology and to deliver laboratory services with a personal touch."

USE OF TEST REQUISITIONS

The requisition is the cornerstone of the relationship between you as our client and us as your laboratory. All the information that is necessary to ensure that you receive your patient's reports is preprinted in the upper left hand corner of the your IRL requisition. This includes the name, address, and phone number of your practice, as well as additional space for the physician names and NPI numbers within your practice.

The requisition number is a permanent tie between the patient and the IRL laboratory information system. This "tie" begins with the barcode label. When your specimens are labeled with these barcodes, they form a "link" to the corresponding requisition number. This allows your specimens to be tracked from the time the specimen is collected until the laboratory results are reported.

The requisition directly connects your patient to your account allowing for consistent reporting. The more we can make that "connection" the better we can provide you with world class customer service. If you would like to hear more information on how the IRL requisition can make a difference in our relationship with you as a customer, contact your sales or service representative.



"The requisition number is a permanent tie between the patient and the IRL laboratory information system."

**INSURANCE
PLAN UPDATE**

IRL now accepts Humana HMO Premier Plan.

Contact us:

IRLB.IRLINFORMS@HCAHealthcare.com

For additional information on our laboratory, please visit our website at:

www.IRLFL.com