05/2024

Testing Update: Pleural Fluid pH

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services

WDH will be joining hospitals across the system in offering only one Pleural Fluid pH test. Pleural fluid pH is currently orderable using two different codes each performed by a different method and in a different location.

**PH, PLEURAL FLUID (LAB40679)**

Collected in a syringe and sent to Respiratory to be run on the Radiometer Blood Gas Analyzer. This is generally accepted as the most accurate and preferred method of body fluid pH analysis.

**PH (FLUID-NOT CSF) – (LAB110)**

Performed in the main laboratory using pH paper. This method is affected by many pre-analytic variables and lacks the accuracy of the Radiometer.

**Charting Issue:**

Unfortunately, both tests appear together in the patient chart with no differentiation between methods. Therefore, to provide the best care for our patients, we are joining MGH, NWH and SLM in only offering one Body Fluid pH test: the preferred method performed on the Radiometer (PH, PLEURAL FLUID (LAB40679)). The laboratory-based test will be discontinued as of **June 3, 2024.**

**Questions:**

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