

"Let's Keep Science Local!"

WE'RE ON THE WEB
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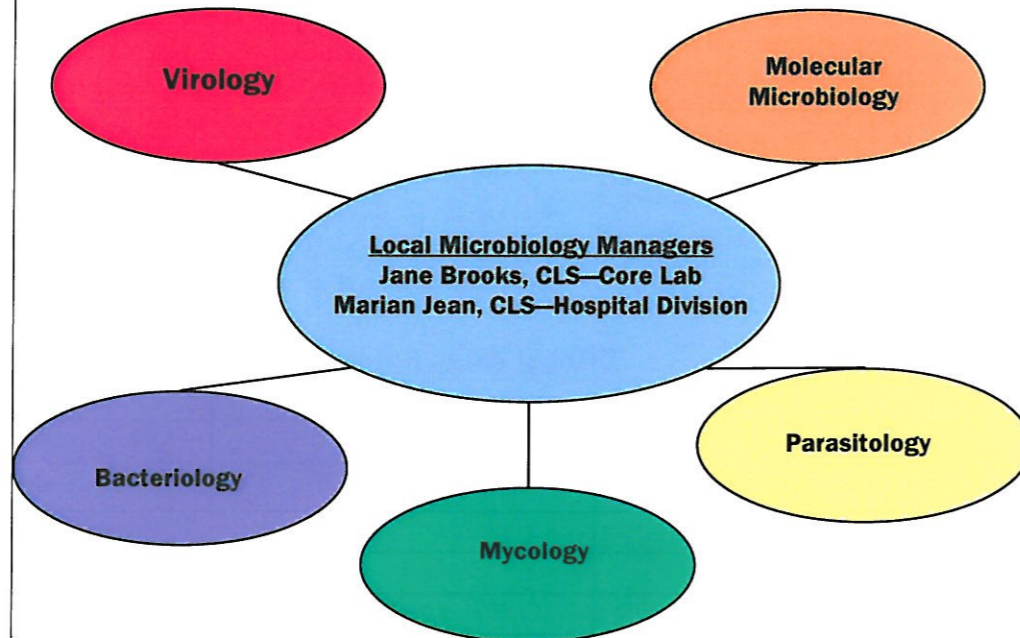


Local Microbiology Testing

As you know, there are several independent laboratory companies that provide service in Santa Barbara County. Yet, despite this, there is only one laboratory that performs Microbiology locally, and we are proud to say that it is us, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories.

The benefits of local Microbiology to the community are:

1. Enhanced specimen integrity
2. Faster report turnaround time
3. Local Microbiologists for consultation and information sharing
4. Preparation to respond to community needs, such as rapid influenza testing during the "Flu Season".



Some of the members of the Microbiology Department at the PDL Core Laboratory.

From left to right: CLS Anthony Wazny, Lab Assistant Mercedes Lopez, CLS Patrick Cunningham, CLS Diane Galvan and Microbiology manager CLS Jane Brooks.

After Hours Calls

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories would like to be able to serve our community in any way possible. As part of our commitment to quality care, we have extended weekend and holiday coverage hours. If you need assistance at any time, please call the main laboratory line at:

(805) 692-4610

Thank you for choosing Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories for all of your testing needs!



More Convenient Patient Service Centers

Volume 1, Issue 1
October 6, 2008



Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories has opened a number of patient service centers in an effort to provide more convenience to you and your patients. Here is a list of all of our locations:

SB Cottage Hospital PSC

Bath at Pueblo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Ph 805-569-7387
HRS: M-F 7 am–6pm
Saturdays 7am-12noon

Hollister PSC

5333 Hollister Ave, # 117
Goleta, CA 93111
Ph 805-681-7715
HRS: M-F 8 am–5 pm

Pueblo II PSC

222 W. Pueblo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Ph 805-682-1251
HRS: M-F 6:30 am–5 pm

Pueblo III

504 W. Pueblo St, #201A
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Ph 805-569-0613
HRS: M-F 8am–12:30pm
1:30 pm-5pm

Fletcher PSC

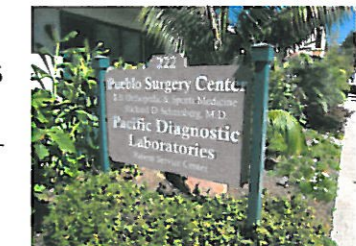
2410 Fletcher St, 2nd Flr
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Ph 805-879-8540
HRS: M-F 8 am–12:30pm

Santa Maria

426 E. Barcellus, Ste 203
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Ph 805-922-2827
HRS: M-F 7am - 12noon
1 pm–4 pm

NEW Orcutt PSC

5075 S. Bradley, Ste 135
Orcutt, CA 93455
Ph 805-937-3245
HRS:M-F 7:30am-12:30
1:30pm-4:30pm



Special Points of Interest in this Issue:

- Critical Results and Procedure
- Review of Sweat Chloride Procedure
- Kit Draw Policy
- Release of Results to Patients
- NEW Orcutt PSC

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Pediatric Laboratory Service

For the benefit of the pediatric patients, we request your office please refer them to one of the two locations which are best suited for children, which are:

Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Lab PSC

Bath at Pueblo Streets
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
HRS: M-F 7am-6pm
Saturday: 7am-12noon

Santa Maria PSC

426 E. Barcellus Ave, #203
Santa Maria, CA 93454
HRS: M-F 7am-12noon
1 pm-4pm



Jacob receives a good report from Dr. Abbott

If you have a pediatric patient that needs esoteric testing, please contact our Client Services Department at 805-692-4610 so that testing, specimen requirements and timing issues with send-outs may be researched in advance of the patient's visit to one of the two sites listed above.



Assistant Hematology Manager Tim Schroeter and CLS Caroline Angeles consult at the Core Lab.

“We hope you appreciate our faster turn around times. Please phone us with any enhancements that you may be interested in”

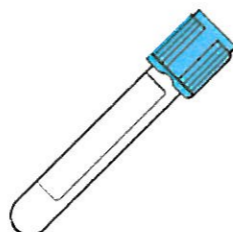


Kit Draw Policy

On occasion Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories will receive requests from patients and clients, to obtain specimens that go to a variety of specialty laboratories that provide “kits” with supplies to draw and ship specimens. We are happy to accommodate these requests with the following guidelines:

1. We do kit draws at two Patient Service Centers only:
 - PDL Fletcher PSC
2410 Fletcher St, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara
 - PDL Santa Maria PSC
426 E. Barcellus, Suite 203
Santa Maria
2. There is a charge of \$50 for the drawing and specimen preparation for a “kit draw”.

3. If the kit includes pre-paid shipping containers, there are no additional fees. However, if the pre-paid shipping is not provided by the specialty lab, our fee is \$75.00 to cover the cost of overnight shipping.
4. Patients with Kit Draw requests must schedule an appointment by calling Client Services at 805-692-4610.



Virology Upgrades

Over the past six months, we have been able to upgrade some of our locally performed virology services. These enhancements will allow for better turn around time and greater sensitivity in detection of some virus’.

Listed below are some of the changes you may have already noticed or likely will notice soon:

1. Herpes testing now requires only 24-48 hours incubation as opposed to 7 days with the past cell lines. In consultation with

the infectious disease physicians, we have discontinued routine typing of herpes virus.

2. Our respiratory panel also has a reduced turn around time, from a 7 day protocol to a 2-4 day TAT. The respiratory panel will detect the following virus’s: Influenza A & B, adenovirus, RSV, Parainfluenza 1, 2, & 3. We continue to offer rapid testing for Influenza and RSV by immunochromatographic methodology.

Anytime you are able to specify the virus of interest, please write it on the requisition that accompanies the specimen.

We hope you appreciate our faster turn around times. Please phone us with any enhancements that you may be interested in.

By: Marian Jean, CLS
Lab Manager of Microbiology Virology Services Dept.
SB Cottage Hospital Lab
(an affiliate of PDL)
Ph: 805-569-7584

Release of Results to Patients

In order to comply with both CLIA and state laws, PDL has adopted a policy for release of results to patients that encompasses both laws. Laboratory results are considered to be the property of the ordering entity. If a patient calls and requests results be sent to them, we will request ac-

knowledge from the ordering entity. This is to allow sufficient time for the ordering entity to review and interpret results and also gives the physician time to speak to the patient about their results. Once we have received acknowledgment, the patient may have the copy mailed to

their home address as listed in our LIS or they may pick it up with valid identification from any of our PSC sites. If you would like your patient to receive a copy of their results, please simply write “Copy to patient” on the requisition and this will prompt a copy be mailed to them.

Sweat Chloride Procedure

As you may know, Sweat Chloride testing is performed at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Laboratory and appointments need to be made for the patients to have this pro-

cedure and test done.

The change is that appointments will be made for 11am, Monday through Friday, instead of the previously allot-

ted 1 pm time slot.

To schedule appointments for Sweat Chloride testing, please call (805) 569-7387.



Lab Assistants Rebecca Freedain and Peter Schwab in the Specimen Processing Department.

Critical Results Procedures

Our laboratory maintains a list of “Critical Values” for many of the assays we perform. When the scientist that performs the testing obtains a “critical value” on a patient, they will immediately call the ordering clinician’s office phone number during regular hours. At times, we obtain the results during typical “off hours”, such as in the evening or over the weekend. When that occurs, our procedure is to check the clinicians instructions for off hour communications, which we maintain in their Client Information File.

Many practices instruct us to call their main number and an exchange service will pick-up and direct the call to the “On-call” physician. Most offices also provide us with a “back-up” phone number, such as the client’s cell phone number, to use in cases where we are having a hard time connecting to the “on-call” physician. We appreciate having the back-up number very much.

You need to know, that in cases where we have called twice to the “on-call” or order-

ing physician during “off hours” and have not received a return call before all employees have gone home, usually around 9 pm, our only option is to call the office in the morning. As you may see, having the physician’s back-up phone number is very helpful in these situations.

To report a back-up number, please contact your Sales Representative who will update our Client Information File for your practice.

(See below for our current list of critical values)

Critical Value Reference Ranges

Name of Test	Less Than	Greater Than
Amylase		200 IU/L
APTT		45 sec.
Total Bilirubin		5 mg/dL
BUN		50 mg/dL
Calcium	7.7 mg/dL	12.5 mg/dL
Creatinine		2.5 mg/dL
Digoxin		2.1 ng/mL
Glucose	60 mg/dL	400 mg/dL
Hgb	7.0 g/dL	≥20.0 g/dL
Lithium		1.5 mEq/L
Platelets	30,000 u/L	1,000,000 u/L
Potassium	3.0 mEq/L	6.0 mEq/L
PT		INR ≥ 4.0
Sodium	120 mEq/L	155 mEq/L
Valproic Acid		150 mg/mL
WBC	1,500u/L	20,000 u/L
WBC, CSF		≥ 10 /cumm
Microbiology	Any sterile site growing any organism	
C. difficile		Positive

“To report a back-up number for your office, please contact your Sales Representative or Client Services at 805-692-4610”

