

Spotlight on PDL's Patient Service Centers

PDL provides your patients with short wait times, 24-hour turnaround time on most tests and friendly service. We have patient service centers located throughout the Central Coast including:

- Thousand Oaks
- Oxnard
- Carpinteria
- Montecito
- Santa Barbara
- Goleta
- Solvang
- Santa Ynez
- Lompoc
- Santa Maria
- Pismo Beach
- San Luis Obispo
- Morro Bay
- Templeton
- Paso Robles

REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

Visit us online at
PDLLabs.com

--or--

Call 805-879-8100 or toll-free
at 866-591-4610 press 2 then
press 1 to schedule or cancel
an appointment.

Please visit our website at www.PDLLabs.com for the latest COVID-19 information as well as:

- Patient Service Center Hours
- Time of Service Pricing Tool
- Test Directory
- PDL Connect
- Medical Necessity Tool
- Forms / Guides

Guiding Health

THE PDL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER / Fall 2021

PDL's New State of the Art Technology

PDL is dedicated to bringing you and your patients the best technology in laboratory testing to reduce test result variability, add efficiency and ensure timely and accurate results.

PDL has recently implemented the CellaVision cell image analysis system as a complement to our hematology testing systems and microscopic analysis. With the use of this system the microscopic review of cells is performed digitally by our clinical lab scientists. Additionally, the system employs a sophisticated software to help categorize the images of cells which allows for a more efficient and standardized review over traditional microscopy. The system is also designed to be accessed across multiple locations enabling images to be shared immediately for review and consult by our pathologists if needed.

PDL has also added the WASP (Walk Away Specimen Processor) system to our microbiology workflow. Specimens are placed directly on the automated system which extracts sample, places it on the culture media plates, streaks the sample on the media, and labels the plates for incubation. The WASP improves the testing process by reducing technique variability that can occur with manual processes. Additionally, the system helps ensure consistent turnaround time as specimens can be placed on the system as they are received into the lab.



SARS-CoV-2 Spike Antibody Testing

In February 2021 PDL tested a cohort of vaccinated (Pfizer) individuals as part of the PDL validation process for the Siemens SARS-CoV-2 spike semi-quantitative antibody test. This same cohort group was retested again in August 2021. All of these post vaccinated individuals demonstrated statistically significant decrements in circulating SARS-CoV-2 S1 (RBD) antibodies in the 6-8 month interval. The results are similar to the Israeli, UK and Mayo Clinic studies.



In addition, the FDA authorized the use of Siemens COVID serology test for determining donor convalescent plasma with an Index ≥ 4.8 to qualify as a donor, so index values less than this cutoff suggest that the number of circulating antibodies needs to be considered with regard to clinical effectiveness. An Index ≤ 1.00 is analytically indistinguishable from unvaccinated cohorts.

What is the clinical significance of the data?

- ◆ Serologic methods have public health value for monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and clinical utility in providing care for patients.
- ◆ The SARS-CoV-2 spike semi-quantitative antibody test is recognized to correlate well with circulating neutralizing antibody titers and can assess specific post vaccine antibody production
- ◆ Recent studies reported during the summer of 2021 have clearly demonstrated waning levels of circulating antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 over the course of several months post vaccination.
- ◆ The SARS-CoV-2 spike semi-quantitative antibody test is FDA EUA authorized and is designed to detect a specific antibody to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- ◆ There is no current claim by the FDA regarding immunity to future COVID-19 infection.

Healthcare Heroes



At PDL we are proud to have employees who rise to the challenge and take care of our patients during difficult circumstances. On October 11, 2021, the Alisal Fire ignited and ultimately burned approximately 17,000 acres north of Goleta.

As the fire approached the 101 causing a shut down that lasted 3 days, the PDL Logistics Team was diverted to State Route 154. They continued to service our clients, Santa Ynez Hospital, Cottage Urgent Care centers and PDL Patient Service Centers. Traffic was delayed by hours and couriers maintained constant contact with our Core Lab for staffing adjustments to handle the specimens when they arrived.

During this challenging time there were no missed pick-ups. Thank you to our PDL courier team for a job well done!

Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) Facts

An ABN is a notice given to Medicare beneficiaries to convey that the ordered **laboratory service(s) may not be reimbursed by Medicare**. If you believe that Medicare will not pay for some or all of the laboratory tests you have ordered, an ABN should be provided to the patient.

How do you know when an ABN should be provided to a patient? A medical provider must issue an ABN when an item or service is not reasonable and necessary under Medicare Program standards, including care that is:

- Experimental and investigational or considered "research only"
- Not indicated for diagnosis or treatment in this case
- Not considered safe and effective
- More than the number of services Medicare allows in specific period for the corresponding diagnosis



PDL has ABNs available in both Spanish and English. The ABNs list the most common tests that may not be covered by the Medicare program along with their prices.

Please contact your sales representative for more information.