

TESTING MENU UPDATE

Our testing menu has changed as a result of our new technology as well as other improvements and innovations.

NEW TESTS

Some of our new tests include:

- Fentanyl
- FSH, LH, Prolactin and Progesterone (*Hormone Level Testing*)
- Free T3
- H-Pylori (Stool)
- Malaria Antigen Testing
- Extended antibiotic susceptibility for multiple drug resistant organism
- CA15.3

DISCONTINUED TESTS

- Tricyclic (TCAs): TCAs are being dropped by companies and are not available on our new Abbott. There have been significant issues with coverage of the tests for all drugs in the family as well as cross reactivity.
- CA27.29

COMING IN OCTOBER 2021

The following tests, which are currently sent out for analysis, will be brought in house:

ANALYTE

C3	Ceruloplasmin
C4	Haptoglobin
IgA	Total T4
IgG	Total T3
IgM	DHEA-S
Anti-CCP	SHBG
Anti-TPO	Testosterone, Total
Beta 2 microglobulin	

LAB READsults

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND CLINICAL LABORATORY NEWSLETTER Summer 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP:

For the Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratory at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, 2020-2021 was a year of unprecedented activity, reorganization, and growth. With the introduction of new technology, a new testing menu and implementation of important patient safety, resource utilization and enhanced value measures, we have continued to provide outstanding service to Torrance Memorial physicians and patients throughout the pandemic.

Our department, which is accredited by the Joint Commission, offers numerous outreach consultation services for both anatomic and clinical pathology through multiple divisions, including:

- Division of Transfusion Medicine (Blood Bank and Blood Donor Center)
- Division of Microbiology, which includes Molecular Microbiology
- Division of Core Laboratory (Chemistry, Hematology, Urinalysis, Coagulation, Drug Screening)
- Division of Point of Care Testing
- Division of Pathology (Histology and Anatomic Pathology)
- Department of Laboratory Support Services, which includes our inpatient and outpatient phlebotomy team, Client Services and Outreach

2020 highlighted the dedication and efforts of our multiple laboratory divisions. The Core Laboratory and Microbiology divisions were at the heart of these efforts, with multiple tests introduced specifically in response to COVID-19, including serology and rapid molecular testing. Throughout the pandemic, we were able to maintain full laboratory operations while adhering to COVID-19 safety precautions.

Our goals for the remainder of 2021 and beyond include expanding outreach by providing new tests and services, mainly in molecular microbiology and anatomic and clinical pathology, while maintaining systems that improve customer service, quality of care delivery and patient safety.

Through this newsletter, our hope is to keep you apprised of changes and improvements relevant to your clinical practice, so you can provide the most up-to-date information to your patients.

Sincerely,

Ihab Abumuhor, MSHCA,
MSCS, MT(ASCP)SBB
Director, Laboratory

John Kunesh, MD
CLIA Director, Clinical Laboratory
Medical Director, Blood Bank
and Donor Center



BLOOD BANK AND DONOR CENTER MAINTAINS SUPPLY

The Division of Transfusion Medicine actively supports the clinical mission of Torrance Memorial by ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply. The Blood Donor Center contributes to the blood products transfused to Torrance Memorial patients and has successfully responded to serious nationwide blood shortages in order to maintain uninterrupted clinical operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our most recent blood drive in July brought in more than 200 donations.



LAB DRAW STATIONS

OPEN DRAW STATIONS TORRANCE

- 3701 Skypark Drive, Suite 200, Torrance
- 2841 Lomita Blvd, Suite 140, Torrance
- Outpatient Lab Draw station 3317 Medical Center Drive, 2nd Floor, Torrance

HERMOSA BEACH

- 705 Pier Avenue, Suite C

MANHATTAN BEACH

- 855 Manhattan Beach Blvd. Suite 206

DRAW STATIONS RE-OPENINGS SCHEDULED: AUGUST 2021 – MARCH 2022

- **August 2021:** Palos Verdes Draw Station, 602 Deep Valley Drive, Suite 300
- **September/October 2021:** McMillen Draw Station, 3701 Skypark Drive, Suite 320, Torrance
- **March 2022:** El Segundo Draw Station

2020-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Open **24/7, 365** days/year • **176** employees • **3.8 million** tests annually • **13,000** products transfused • **PHLEBOTOMY DRAWS PERFORMED: 153,998** inpatient • **50,000** outreach • **TESTS PERFORMED: 83,325** histopathology • **8,000** cytology • **75,000** microbiology • **265,000** chemistry • **95,000** hematology • **13,647** non-COVID PCR • **35,000** COVID-19 • **700** point-of-care glucose tests daily

COVID-19 SEROLOGY TESTING

Due to the complexity of antibody testing for different targets of SARS-CoV-2 with the prevalence of vaccination and the challenges associated with interpreting test results, an order for SARS-CoV-2 serology will trigger **three separate tests**: IgG to spike protein (IgGsp), IgM to spike protein (IgMsp) and IgG to nucleocapsid protein (IgGnc).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend serological testing to assess COVID-19-driven immunity following vaccination or to assess the need for vaccination in an unvaccinated person at this time.* However, if a provider chooses to order serology tests for a patient after vaccination, a panel of all three tests will provide a more complete clinical picture of each patient's status:

TEST	WHAT THE TEST SHOWS
IgGsp	Vaccination and previous exposure/infection
IgMsp	Vaccination and previous exposure/infection
IgGnc	Previous exposure/infection/not present in current vaccines

Please see Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing in Clinical and Public Health Settings at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for a detailed discussion and review of recommendations for COVID-19 antibody testing.

*Narasimhan M, Mahimainathan L, Araj E, Clark AE, et al. 2021. Clinical evaluation of the Abbott Alinity SARS-CoV-2 spike-specific quantitative IgG and IgM assays among infected, recovered, and vaccinated groups. *J Clin Microbiol* 59:e00388-21. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.00388-21>



Torrance Memorial laboratory team poses with the new Alinity technology. Photo/Torrance Memorial Medical Center

On June 22, 2021, Torrance Memorial became the first Alinity Hospital-based Core Lab to go live in California. Alinity's innovative technology allows the lab to provide faster, more accurate results while increasing the capacity of the laboratory and driving down costs — which will help improve physician and patient satisfaction and outcomes.

New reference changes, which were previously communicated to Torrance Memorial clinicians and outreach clients, were also implemented as a result of the new technology.

In conjunction with the new automation, the department also commenced a long-planned core laboratory reconstruction project that will overhaul the entire laboratory.