

October 2024



LAB-LINK

NEW AND UPDATED
TESTING INFORMATION



[Click here for a printable version →](#)

Table of Contents 2

New Tests 3

Test Updates 4-6

General Information 7-8

Patient Service Center Updates 9

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE TEST INFORMATION, VISIT OUR ONLINE HANDBOOK AT [HNL.COM/TESTMENU](https://www.hnl.com/testmenu)

The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes published by HNL Lab Medicine are guidelines and are intended for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the exclusive responsibility of the billing entity. HNL Lab Medicine strongly recommends confirmation of CPT codes with third-party payors and/or the AMA. We assume no responsibility for billing errors due to reliance upon CPT codes provided by HNL Lab Medicine. OIG guidelines recommend tests ordered should be reasonable and necessary for the patient, given their clinical condition. Physicians who order medically unnecessary tests for which federal healthcare plan reimbursement is claimed may be subject to penalties. Individual components of profiles or panels may be ordered individually. Physicians who consider reflex testing unnecessary may order an initial test without the reflexed test. Reflex or confirmation tests are performed at an additional charge.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Test Name/Subject	Effective Date	Page
NEW TEST		
New In-House PCR Testing for Babesia, Anaplasma, and Ehrlichia	September 3, 2024	3
TEST UPDATES		
Estrogens, Total (ESTOT)	October 8, 2024	4
HCV Qualitative PCR (HCQLP)	October 1, 2024	5
Antibody Titer, Red Blood Cells (ANT)	October 1, 2024	6
GENERAL INFORMATION		
HNL Lab Medicine Partners with Sysmex America, Inc.	N/A	7
Tick-Borne Illness Detection	N/A	8
PATIENT SERVICE CENTER UPDATES		
Pottsville - Route 61 Patient Service Center Relocation to Brunswick Business Center	September 26, 2024	9
Allentown - AMC 17th Street Location has Moved!	October 12, 2024	9

NEW TEST

New In-House PCR Testing for Babesia, Anaplasma, and Ehrlichia

We are pleased to announce that HNL Lab Medicine now offers in-house PCR testing for the detection of **Babesia**, **Anaplasma**, and **Ehrlichia**. This advanced testing method is available to replace or supplement orders for blood parasite smears and/or serology.

Blood smears, while useful, can have low diagnostic sensitivity, particularly for detecting **Anaplasma** and **Ehrlichia**. Additionally, blood smears do not allow for the differentiation between these organisms. Our new PCR test provides a higher level of analytical sensitivity during the acute phase of infection, offering a more reliable diagnostic tool.

Key Benefits

- **Enhanced Sensitivity:** Improved detection of **Babesia**, **Anaplasma**, and **Ehrlichia**.
- **Differentiation:** Accurate identification between Anaplasma and Ehrlichia.
- **Timely Results:** Fast and reliable results during the critical acute phase of infection.

Please note that as a result of this new offering, the test code TKBDP (Tick-Borne Disease Panel by PCR) will be inactivated as the test code TICKP goes live.

We encourage you to consider ordering this testing as appropriate to ensure the highest level of care for your patients.

Additional Information

If you have additional questions regarding this test, please contact Technical Support between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For general questions, Customer Care is available to assist at any time.

Technical Support/Customer Care

877-402-4221

TEST UPDATE

Estrogens, Total (ESTOT)

Description of Change

The reference ranges for the Estrogens, Total (Test Code: ESTOT) test have been updated to reflect the latest clinical guidelines and ensure optimal accuracy in patient care.

Please refer to the updated reference ranges below:

Age	Male (pg/mL)	Female (pg/mL)
Prepubertal	<40	<40
Adults	56 - 213	Female Cycle 1 - 10 Days: 16 - 328 11 - 20 Days: 34 - 501 21 - 30 Days: 48 - 350 Post-menopausal: 40 - 244

Effective Date

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Test Name

Estrogens, Total

Test Code

ESTOT

CPT Code

82672

Additional Information

If you have additional questions regarding this test, please contact Technical Support between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For general questions, Customer Care is available to assist at any time.

Technical Support/Customer Care

877-402-4221

TEST UPDATE

Discontinued Test with Replacement:

HCV Qualitative PCR (HCQLP)

Description of Change **Effective October 1, 2024, HCV Qualitative, PCR (Test Code: HCQLP) test has been discontinued.** This change was made to streamline the testing process, as the HCV Quantitative test provides the same diagnostic information.

We encourage physicians to order the HCV Viral Load, RT-PCR (Test Code: HCVLD) for accurate and efficient Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) detection and monitoring.

Effective Date Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Discontinued Test Name HCV Qualitative, PCR

Discontinued Test Code HCQLP

Replacement Test Name **HCV Viral Load, RT-PCR**

Replacement Test Code **HCVLD**

CPT Code 87521

Additional Information

If you have additional questions regarding this test, please contact Technical Support between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For general questions, Customer Care is available to assist at any time.

Technical Support/Customer Care

877-402-4221

TEST UPDATE

Methodology Change:

Antibody Titer, Red Blood Cells (ANT)

On October 1, 2024, HNL Lab Medicine transitioned the Antibody Titer, Red Blood Cells (Test Code: ANT) to a new, more advanced platform, which will enhance the sensitivity and precision of our testing.

Key Changes

- **Improved Sensitivity:** The new platform is designed to offer improved sensitivity, potentially resulting in titer results that are **one to two dilutions higher** compared to the current testing method.
- **Updated Cut-Off Values:** With this change, the cut-off for titer results will be updated. The new threshold will be **greater than or equal to 1024**, compared to the previous cut-off of **greater than or equal to 2048**.

We are confident that this enhancement will improve the accuracy and reliability of our antibody titer testing, ensuring you receive the highest quality results for your patients.

Additional Information

If you have additional questions regarding this test, please contact Technical Support between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For general questions, Customer Care is available to assist at any time.

Technical Support/Customer Care

877-402-4221

GENERAL INFORMATION

HNL Lab Medicine Partners with Sysmex America, Inc.

HNL Lab Medicine proudly announces a new Strategic Preferred Partnership with Sysmex America, Inc., a global leader in hematology and urinalysis solutions. This partnership aims to enhance laboratory efficiency, improve patient care, and address the ongoing challenges of the lab industry.

Warren Erdmann, Chief Operating Officer of HNL Lab Medicine, emphasized the significance of this collaboration, saying, “Sysmex is renowned for setting the gold standard in hematology and urinalysis. Through this partnership, we are well-equipped to meet the evolving challenges of the lab industry, ensuring that by collaborating with the best, we continue delivering top-tier service to both providers and patients.”



The partnership represents a natural alignment between two organizations that share a common vision of excellence in laboratory services and patient care. By leveraging Sysmex’s cutting-edge diagnostic technology and HNL Lab Medicine’s commitment to operational efficiency and clinical quality, both organizations are positioned to address the growing complexities of the lab industry. Together, we will drive innovations that enhance lab performance, improve patient outcomes, and continue setting new standards for service delivery.



Sysmex America, Inc. shares the same commitment to excellence in laboratory services. Dan Zortman, Chief Executive Officer of Sysmex America, Inc., expressed his enthusiasm for the new partnership, stating, “Sysmex America is excited to enter this new strategic partnership with HNL Lab Medicine. Together, we will meet our long-term shared business goals of enhancing lab efficiencies and delivering world-class quality and service.”

Employees of Sysmex echo his sentiment and recognize the value and potential for advancement brought by the agreement. Jeff Holmstrom, Senior Executive Officer of Sysmex America, Inc., adds, “Our partnership with HNL Lab Medicine is a great example of two trusted names in healthcare working together to improve the patient healthcare journey through innovative technology.”

The HNL Lab Medicine Strategic Preferred Partnership with Sysmex will build on the strengths of both organizations, combining cutting-edge technology with operational excellence to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. The agreement is grounded in three core pillars: delivering high-quality results, maintaining exceptional service to patients and providers, and promoting a financial model that supports continuous reinvestment in employees, facilities, and equipment.

This partnership is part of HNL Lab Medicine’s broader Strategic Preferred Partnerships Program, which focuses on creating long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with leading vendors to drive innovation, improve patient outcomes, and ensure sustainable growth.

[View the article on HNL.com](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tick-Borne Illness Detection

In the Lab: Developing Tick-Borne Illness Detections

Join HNL Lab Medicine in celebrating the outstanding scientific contributions of Tara Hummel, Lab Technologist; Georgia Colasante, Technical Specialist; and Keana Makari, Lab Technologist. These brilliant laboratory scientists developed a new lab test with DiaSorin Molecular to detect the causes of tick-borne illnesses like *anaplasmosis*, *babesiosis*, and *ehrlichiosis*.

Cases of these infections are increasing in part because of ecological changes and expanding tick habitats, making new diagnostic options more important than ever. The exceptional work of these scientists is advancing the detection and diagnosis of tick-borne diseases.



Their Test and Study

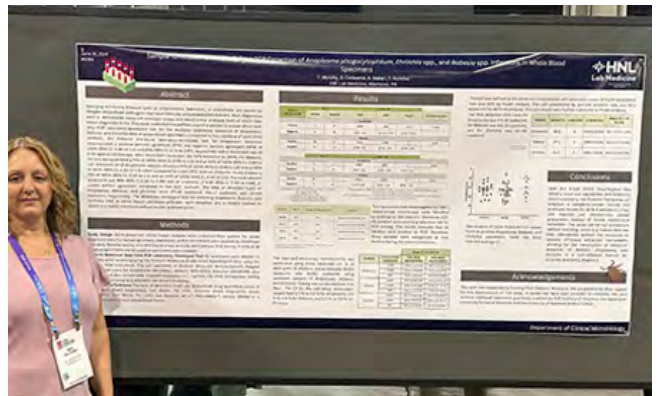
As tick-borne infections become more common, better testing methods are needed to detect them. Traditional methods can be very effective, but they require multiple stages and experienced lab scientists to perform, which can be difficult and time-consuming. In addition to the complexity of testing, these infections can be hard to diagnose with traditional methods because the signs of infection can be difficult to see.

A PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test works by creating millions of copies of a particular DNA segment, making it easier to analyze. In their study, Tara, Georgia, and Keana simplified this process by developing a streamlined PCR test with the DiaSorin Molecular PCR platform. They tested blood samples suspected of having these infections and compared the results of their new PCR test with traditional blood smear and other PCR tests from different labs.

The Results

Current PCR tests need skilled lab workers to do complex and time-consuming procedures, which can be challenging due to the lab scientist shortage. Tara, Georgia, and Keana optimized their test without the need for DNA extraction and for a format that can handle up to eight samples at once, making it faster and easier to use in clinical labs. The new test also showed perfect accuracy in detecting the infections!

Overall, their study showed that this new PCR test is simple, reliable, and can quickly detect the causes of three common tick-borne infections – *Anaplasma*, *Babesia*, and *Ehrlichia* – without the need for complicated procedures. Their test is also more sensitive and can identify low levels of the pathogens that cause these diseases. This makes it a valuable tool for labs to diagnose these infections accurately and timely.



Congratulations to the Team!

HNL Lab Medicine is committed to advancing lab science, and the work of Tara Hummel, Georgia Colasante, and Keana Makari exemplifies this dedication. Their work enhances patient care at HNL Lab Medicine by providing faster and more accurate diagnostic techniques. This innovation has the ability to transform how we diagnose and treat these infections, leading to better outcomes for patients. Their exceptional contributions highlight the remarkable talent and passion that drive our pursuit of excellence in laboratory medicine.

In addition to the publication, Tara recently presented their work at the American Society for Microbiology's Microbe Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations to Tara, Georgia, and Keana for their remarkable achievements! To learn more about their research, read their publication "Sample-to-answer direct real-time PCR detection of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, *Ehrlichia* spp., and *Babesia* spp. infections in whole-blood specimens" in [Microbiology Spectrum](#).

[View the article on HNL.com](#)

PATIENT SERVICE CENTER UPDATES

HNL Lab Medicine Relocates Pottsville

Pottsville - Route 61 Patient Service Center Relocation to Brunswick Business Center

HNL Lab Medicine is excited to announce the relocation of its Route 61 Patient Service Center from 1504 Pennsylvania 61, Pottsville, PA 17901 to the newly renovated Brunswick Business Center, located at 1260 Centre Turnpike, Suites 103-104, Orwigsburg, PA 17961. This move reflects HNL Lab Medicine's commitment to providing high-quality, accessible laboratory services to the communities it serves.

The new Patient Service Center at the Brunswick Business Center offers enhanced facilities designed to improve patient experience. The upgraded location includes modernized infrastructure, state-of-the-art equipment, and an updated waiting area designed to accommodate a growing number of patients. With convenient parking and access, the new location provides a more comfortable and efficient environment for both patients and staff. The relocation underscores HNL Lab Medicine's dedication to continuous improvement and innovation in patient care.

The new center officially opened on September 26, with operating hours from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Patients can expect the same high standard of care and professionalism that HNL Lab Medicine is known for. For more information about the new location, please visit www.hnl.com.



HNL Patient Service Center – Brunswick Business Center

Address: 1260 Centre Turnpike, Suites 103-104, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Phone: 484-425-5299 | Fax: 570-728-2341

Website: <https://www.hnl.com>

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Allentown - AMC 17th Street Location has Moved!

Allentown - AMC 17th Street Patient Service Center Moves to a new, more convenient location!

HNL Lab Medicine has moved from the Allentown - AMC 17th Street location to the Fairgrounds Medical Center, just across the street from our current location. The last day at our old location (401 N. 17th St., Allentown, PA) was Friday, October 11, 2024, at noon.

Beginning Saturday, October 12, 2024, patients can visit us across the street at our new home in the Fairgrounds Medical Center, located at 400 N. 17th St., Suite 202, Allentown, PA 18104. We'll be open at 7 AM to continue providing exceptional lab services.

This new facility offers more convenience and comfort while still delivering the fast, reliable lab services you count on.



HNL Patient Service Center – Fairgrounds Medical Center

Address: 401 N. 17th St., Suite 202, Allentown, PA 18104

Phone: 484-425-5272 | Fax: 610-969-3085

Website: <https://www.hnl.com>

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For any questions, feel free to contact our Customer Care Team at 877-402-4221. You can also explore additional nearby locations by visiting [HNL.com/locations](https://www.hnl.com/locations).