TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

October 15, 2012

Dear Colleague,

The Laboratory Service Section of the Texas Department of State Health Services is proposing changes to rules related to the laboratory's fee schedule that was adopted in October 2012. Since the close of the public comment period for these recently adopted rules, circumstances have occurred that make it necessary to propose these changes. The proposed amendments will include fees for new tests; the deletion of some tests and their accompanying fees; and changes to some fees which may be higher or lower than the fee listed on the existing fee schedule.

The majority of the changes that are proposed are related to the closing of the Women's Health Laboratory (WHL) in August 2012. Section 73.54 (c) "Tests performed on clinical specimens, Women's Health Laboratory" is proposed to be deleted. Some tests that were performed at WHL will continue to be offered at the remaining two DSHS laboratories and will be included in the proposed amendments.

A summary of the proposed changes to tests offered at South Texas Laboratory and the Austin Laboratory is attached for your review. There will be an official 30 day comment period once these proposed amendments are published in the Texas Register. However, you may provide informal comments by contacting Amy Schlabach, Laboratory Services Section, MC 1947, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347 or via email at amy.schlabach@dshs.state.tx.us by November 16, 2012.

Sincerely,

Grace Kubin

Grace Kubin, Ph.D.
Director, Laboratory Services Section

Proposed Changes to Laboratory Fees, October 2012

Clinical Testing - Austin Laboratory		
Type of Test or Service	**Proposed Change**	**Test or Service and Associated Fee**
Bacteriology	Add New Test	Gonorrhea/Chlamydia (GC/CT)- GC/CT, amplified RNA Probe--$20.28,
	Add New Test	GC culture confirmation by amplified or direct probe-- $37.66
	Add New Test	GC Screen--$44.54
	Name Change and Price Increase	Pertussis , polymerase chain reaction will be renamed to *Bordetella pertussis, Parapertussis, and Bordetella holmesii* polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and the price will increase from #32.11 to $213.79.
Clinical Chemistry	Delete	Antibody identification-- $260.70
	Delete	Antibody titer--$446.07
DNA Analysis	Delete	Phenylketonuria (PKU) Full Gene Sequencing-- $1726.03
Mycobacteriology/ Mycology	Fee Reduction	Nucleic Acid Amplification for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis(M. Tubercuosis), Fee reduced from $197.41 to $166.70
Serology	Delete	*Aspergillus*--$84.13
		Fungal identification (blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis)--$142.05
		Fungal panel (blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis)--$130.55
		Legionella--$168.42
	Add New Test	HIV combo Ag/Ab EIA--$7.90
	Fee Reduction	QuantiFERON (tuberculosis serology) , fee reduced from $84.45 to 53.66
Virology	Add New Test	Influenza pyrosequencing for antiviral resistance--$13.11
	Add New Test	Mumps, real-time PCR--$127.83
	Add New Test	Respiratory viral panel--$152.02.
	Fee Reduction	Influenza Surveillance without culture (typing PCR), fee reduced from $248.00 to $131.32
Clinical Testing - South Texas Laboratory (STL)		
Emergency Preparedness	Add New Test	Influenza A, PCR--$125.00
	Add New Test	Ricin, PCR--$150.00
Microbiology	Add New Test	Identification of AFB isolate, DNA probes --$44.63

Proposed Changes to Laboratory Fees, October 2012

Non-Clinical Testing - Austin Laboratory		
Type of Test or Service	**Proposed Change**	**Test or Service and Associated Fee**
Microbiological Analysis - Water	Delete	Fecal coliforms, multiple tube fermentation (MFT)--$182.01
	Delete	Reagent water suitability--$60.26
Microbiology - Bacteriology	Add New Test	*Cronobacter sakazakii*--$66.07
	Add New Test	Non-0157 STEC--$121.52
Microbiology--Virology	Add New Test	West Nile Virus (WNV), Mosquitoes, PCR--$57.87
Chemical Analysis (Non-Clinical)		
Water	Delete	Bottled Water--$71.74
Food	Add New Test	Gluten--$90.97
Services Charges - STL and Austin Laboratory		
Clinical Specimens	New Fee	Special specimen processing and storage of clinical specimens--$25.00
Environmental Samples	New Fee	Preparation and storage of composite samples for chemical analysis--$19.23