

NEW TEST CODE ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTIFICATION DATE: June 14, 2010 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 14, 2010

PROTOPORPHYRINS, FRACTIONATED, WASHED ERYTHROCYTES #31891

EXPLANATION: A new unit code, #31891, was created to submit washed erythrocyte specimens for Protoporphyrin, Fractionation testing. Currently, whole blood and washed erythrocytes are submitted under the same unit code #8739. There will be no change to the methodology, CPT code or reference values.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:

Washed Erythrocytes

- 1. Patient should abstain from alcohol for 24 hours.
 - Note: Include a list of medications the patient is currently taking and forward with the specimen.
- 2. Draw a full, green-top (heparin) tube. Process entire heparinized whole blood specimen as follows:
 - A. Place on wet ice immediately.
 - B. Transfer to a 12-mL graduated centrifuge tube.
 - C. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 2,000 rpm.
 - D. Record volume of packed cells and the total volume of the specimen. This information **must** be sent with the specimen.
 - E. Discard supernatant plasma.
 - F. Wash erythrocytes 2 times by resuspension with 5 mL of cold 0.9% saline, discarding supernatant after each washing.
 - G. Resuspend packed cells to the original total volume with 0.9% saline. Invert gently to mix.
- 3. Send washed erythrocyte suspension frozen in plastic vial.

Note: Volume of packed cells and total volume of erythrocyte suspension (red cells + saline) are **required** on request form for processing.

LIST FEE: \$176.90

CPT CODE: 84202

QUESTIONS: Contact your Mayo Medical Laboratories' Regional Manager or Sara Siewert, MML Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator Telephone: 800-533-1710