



Discontinuation of B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) Testing

Effective July 23, 2018, Laboratory Alliance of Central New York will no longer offer testing for B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) Testing. An alternative test, NT-proBNP, is available at all testing sites. If requests are received for BNP after July 22, 2018, samples will be forwarded to our reference laboratory, ARUP. Results will not be available stat, but will generally be available within one to three days.

Crouse Health and St. Joseph's Health, as well as many of our non-hospital providers, previously transitioned from use of BNP to NT-proBNP as the natriuretic peptide of choice. Although both tests have similar clinical utility, NT-proBNP testing offers some advantages over BNP testing. NT-proBNP has been reported to be superior to BNP for patients taking Entresto[®]. NT-proBNP is more stable than BNP in patient samples; this enhances the possibility of adding NT-proBNP testing onto samples previously drawn.

NT-proBNP is available daily at all testing sites, with stat requests available with turn-around time (TAT) less than one hour from receipt in the lab. The preferred specimen type is serum (gold top tube). Other chemistry tests can be performed from the same tube, eliminating the need for a unique tube for the natriuretic peptide testing as is the case for BNP (lavender top tube).

The specimen requirements for BNP will continue to be a lavender-top tube collection, but preanalytical handling will require that the plasma is removed within two hours and frozen within four hours from time of collection. This will necessitate processing to frozen plasma at the collection site or transport to the laboratory via stat courier. The chart below compares the two natriuretic peptide test details.

	BNP	NT-proBNP
Order code:	MARUP-;30191 B-Type Natriuretic Peptide	PROBNP
Order Availability:	Manual miscellaneous request	Orderable via client interfaces
Method:	Chemiluminescent Immunoassay	Chemiluminescent Immunoassay
Specimen Requirements:	One lavender (EDTA) tube.	One gold (SST) tube preferred.
Stability:	Whole Blood: Ambient or refrigerated: 2 hours Frozen plasma: 4 months	After separation from cells: Ambient: 3 days Refrigerated: 3 days
Billing Code:	None, manual billing	1010519
CPT Code:	83880	83880
Reference Range:	0 - 100 pg/mL	0 – 74 y: 0 - 125 pg/mL ≥ 75 y: 0 - 450 pg/mL

For questions about natriuretic peptides, please contact Dr. Roy Huchzermeier at 315-410-7221 or RoyHuchzermeierPhD@lacny.com. For questions about BNP or NT-proBNP testing, please contact Cheryl Haskins at 315-410-7014 or CherylHaskins@lacny.com

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