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**PATHOLOGY  
LABORATORIES**

A Sonic Healthcare Clinical Laboratory

Client Communication

# Ammonia Test Update/New Specimen Requirements

Pathology Laboratories, Inc. (PathLabs) has implemented an **IMMEDIATE** change, beginning February 17, 2022, to the specimen requirements for ammonia testing.

The changes in specimen requirements encompass the following: specimen type, specimen container, specimen handling, and transport temperature based on the ordering recommendations of our reference laboratory that performs ammonia testing, as further detailed below.

Test Name	Test Code	Ordering Recommendation
AMMONIA	36003	EVALUATION OF LIVER FUNCTION

**Below, please find the changes to the specimen and container types:**

■ The following specimen type and container will **NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED**:

- **PLASMA: GREEN (LITHIUM HEPARIN)**

■ The following specimen type and container will **BE ACCEPTED**:

- **PLASMA: LAVENDER (EDTA)**

### Below please find the changes to the specimen handling and transport temperature:

- The following represent specimen handling and transport temperature changes:
  - The plasma specimen must be **\*\*\*CRITICAL FROZEN\*\*\***  
**See handling instructions below.**

### Updated Specimen Requirements:

Container Type:	Lavender (EDTA)
Specimen Type:	Plasma
Handling Instructions:	Immediately centrifuge, separate plasma, and freeze plasma within 15 minutes. <b>***Critical Frozen***</b> minimum volume is 0.1 mL of frozen EDTA plasma.
Transport:	Critical Frozen
Specimen Stability:	Frozen: 1 week
Rejection Criteria:	Samples not drawn in EDTA, plasma not separated and frozen within 15 minutes.
Methodology:	Colorimetric
Analytic Time:	1 DAY; Tested Daily
CPT Code:	82140

**NOTE:** CPT codes are provided for information only, and are based on Pathology Laboratories' current understanding of Medicare rules and carrier instructions and in accordance with the current issue of physicians current procedural terminology (CPT), published by the American Medical Association. Medicare coding may differ from coding used by other third party payers. Questions regarding coding should be confirmed with the payer being billed. Pathology Laboratories cannot accept responsibility for the reimbursement clients may or may not receive based on the procedure codes provided.

Our online test directory has been updated to reflect these changes beginning February 17, 2022.

Please review the information and make changes as applicable to your practice/facility. If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Department at 419-291-4414 / 833-960-0241 or your account executive. Thank you.