



# Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

## Change in method for bilirubin – applicable to infants only

<b>Effective date</b>	March 7, 2023
<b>Affected populations</b>	Infants (< 365 days) & cord bloods
<b>Change</b>	<p>Discontinuation of ‘conjugated and unconjugated bilirubin’ by Children’s and Women’s Hospital (CWH).</p> <p>Replaced with total and direct bilirubin, with direct bilirubin sent to CWH for analysis via a diazo method. Total bilirubin will continue to be analyzed at St. Paul’s Hospital.</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>CWH previously used a dry slide methodology for determination of conjugated and unconjugated bilirubin; however, with an upcoming change to a ‘wet’ chemistry analyzer, they will no longer be reporting conjugated and unconjugated bilirubin. Instead, they will be reporting total and direct bilirubin only.</p> <p>For infants (&lt;365 days) and cord bloods, direct bilirubin requests will be sent to CWH for analysis via a diazo method. PHC performs direct bilirubin via a vanadate oxidase method. In infants, an advantage of the diazo method is that it has greater accuracy at low direct bilirubin concentrations. A disadvantage of the diazo method is that it is more susceptible to interference by hemolysate, and thus there is the potential for an increase in requests for recollection due to hemolyzed specimens.</p>
<b>Questions?</b>	<p>Please contact:</p> <p>Dr. Mari DeMarco, PhD DABCC FCACB Clinical Chemist, Providence Health Care Department of Pathology &amp; Laboratory Medicine <a href="mailto:mdemarco@providencehealth.bc.ca">mdemarco@providencehealth.bc.ca</a> Tel. 604.806.8470</p>