

Memorandum

Date: October 15, 2013

From: Dr. Deborah Griswold
Division of Hematopathology
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Providence Health Care

Re: **UPCOMING CHANGES IN SPECIALIZED COAGULATION TESTING**

On October 16, 2013 the hematology laboratory at St. Paul's Hospital will be changing to a new coagulation analyzer, the ACL TOP 700 for specialized coagulation assays. We have performed an extensive evaluation of the new system, including comparison with existing assays for normal individuals and patients with known coagulation abnormalities.

Result reporting, reference and therapeutic ranges will not change for most of the specialized coagulation tests, including:

- coagulation factors assays
- tests for hypercoagulability, including antithrombin, protein C and protein S
- heparin therapeutic ranges

Some changes will be made to the following tests/investigations. As modifications to the computer system are required, these assays will not be implemented for a number of weeks.

- **Von Willebrand Disease workup**
For workup of suspected von Willebrand disease we will continue to perform a battery of tests that assesses both quantitative and qualitative aspects of von Willebrand factor, plus factor VIII activity. We are switching from the ristocetin cofactor assay to von Willebrand activity, a test based on the ability of the von Willebrand protein to bind to glycoprotein 1b. The reference ranges will not change.
- **Lupus Anticoagulant**
With our new system we will be reporting only the DRVVT ratio, a test based on the degree of correction of an abnormal test with excess phospholipid. Note that the revised cutoff for a positive result will increase from 1.2 to 1.4.
- **Factor XIII**
A quantitative factor XIII assay will replace the current screening test. The reference range is 0.50-1.50 U.

For further information please feel free to contact any of the hematopathologists at St. Paul's Hospital. Our contact information is listed below.

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