



INSTRUMENTATION UPDATE

Date: February 10, 2009

To: EMH Reference Laboratory Clients

Re: Method Change for ASO, C3, C4, Haptoglobin, and Rheumatoid Factor

In order to improve our efficiency and turn around time, the EMH Reference Laboratory is updating the instrumentation and test methodology for the serum immunology tests listed below.

Effective February 16, 2009 these tests will be performed in the automated laboratory using a turbidimetric methodology instead of the rate nephelometry method currently in use. The new instrumentation will increase test runs from 5 days/wk (Mon-Fri) to 7 days/wk (Mon-Sun).

The required specimen is serum collected in one SST tube. See table below for a summary of test information. Please make any necessary changes to your Client Users Manual.

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Reference Values</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Analytic Time</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>CPT</i>
Antistreptolysin O (ASO)	Turbidimetric	No change	Daily	4 hours	STRP2	86060
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	Collect 1 SST (0.5 ml serum per test). Invert tube 8-10 times to mix. Clot, spin, and refrigerate within 2 hours. Stable 48 hrs refrigerated.					
Complement C3 Complement C4	Turbidimetric	No change	Daily	4 hours	C3COM C4COM	86160 86160
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	Fasting specimen is preferred. Collect 1 SST (0.5 ml serum per test). Invert tube 8-10 times to mix. Clot, spin, and refrigerate within 2 hours. Stable 24 hrs refrigerated, 7 days frozen.					
Haptoglobin	Turbidimetric	No change	Daily	4 hours	HAPT1	83010
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	Collect 1 SST (0.5 ml serum). Invert tube 8-10 times to mix. Clot, spin, and refrigerate within 2 hours. Stable 72 hrs refrigerated.					
Rheumatoid Factor	Turbidimetric	No change	Daily	4 hours	RF4	86431
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	Collect 1 SST (0.5 ml serum). Invert tube 8-10 times to mix. Clot, spin, and refrigerate within 2 hours. Stable 7 days refrigerated.					

Note: The C3, C4, and Rheumatoid Factor tests are also included in the Connective Tissue Disease Panel.

For more information regarding this notice, please call Client Services at 866-941-4542.