Date: June 7, 2017
To: Grey Nuns Community Hospital – Physicians, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals
From: AHS Edmonton Zone Laboratory Services
Re: Change in blood collection tube for troponin testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective **Monday June 19, 2017**, blood samples for troponin testing have to be collected into 5.5 mL Barricor blood collection tubes instead of the Lithium Heparin PST tubes (see photo on the right for visual comparison of the tubes).

- The current cutoff (<0.15 μg/L), units, and other reporting details associated with troponin results will NOT change at this time.

Background:

- The 5.5 mL Barricor is a new blood collection tube that produces a cleaner plasma sample than our current PST tube.

- The cleaner plasma sample yields more accurate troponin results. It also reduces the turnaround time from blood collection to result reporting for a subset of positive troponin samples.

Action Required:

- Ensure that you are trained on collecting into a 5.5 mL Barricor tube. A prerecorded training module is available in Clic. In-service training is also available by contacting the GNH laboratory.

- Ensure that you are aware of the following requirements for the 5.5 mL Barricor:
  - Drawing of blood into a syringe followed by transfer into the Barricor is UNACCEPTABLE. This practice runs the risk of puncturing the mechanical separator in the tube, leading to sample cancellation.
  - Order of draw is PST first, followed by Barricor.
  - Add-on requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Ensure your units carts are stocked with an adequate supply of 5.5 mL Barricor tubes
  - Warehouse Product number: 2025403
  - Item Description: Tube Blood Collection Barricor 5.5mL

For further information about Barricor collection procedures, please see the accompanying FAQ document.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:
Dr. Anna Fuezery, Clinical Biochemist, at: anna.fuezery@ahs.ca or (780) 221-2707.
The GNH laboratory at: (780) 735-7088.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. Michael Mengel, Interim Clinical Department Head for Edmonton Zone, AHS Laboratory Services