

**Date:** May 16, 2016  
**To:** Central Zone Physicians, Nurses and Laboratories  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Coagulation Specimens With High Hematocrits

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- Effective June 1, 2016, Coagulation specimens with a haematocrit of  $>0.55$  will be reported with the following comment:  
  
“Interpret with caution. This specimen has a Hematocrit  $>0.55$ . When the patients Hematocrit is  $>0.55$ , clotting times (PT/INR, PTT and TT) can be falsely prolonged and D-Dimer and fibrinogen levels can be falsely decreased.  
If repeat testing is indicated, please contact your local laboratory as corrected testing is only performed at selected sites.”
- The Hematology Network concluded that preparing a corrected tube each time the hematocrit is elevated is not clinically indicated or useful.
- Coagulation testing on a corrected tube will only be performed at the request of the ordering physician and will only be performed at one of 5 sites in Central Zone:
  - Red Deer
  - Wetaskiwin
  - Drumheller
  - Wainwright
  - Camrose

### Why this is important:

- This is a procedural change for performing sites in Central Zone

### Action Required:

- Ensure the physician requests a corrected tube collection if required
- Ensure the patient has been directed to the appropriate site

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Kim Joss, Regional Technologist, Central Zone (DTH)
- Luanne Rowsell, Regional Technologist, Central Zone (ECH)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

“This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Garnet Horne”