

Date: February 11, 2013

To: Central Zone – Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre
Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone

Re: On-Site Chemistry Testing at Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre

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Key Messages:

- Effective **February 14th, 2013** the chemistry tests currently done on the Roche Integra analyzer will be moved to the new Siemens Dimension EXL200 Clinical Chemistry System (EXL) at the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre Laboratory.
- Troponin I (TnI) will move from the i-STAT analyzer to the EXL200 chemistry analyzer.
 - The shift from using whole blood on i-STAT to using plasma on the EXL will require specimen centrifugation prior to analysis resulting in an increase in the TnI turnaround time of about 15 minutes. This potential disadvantage is more than offset by the **increased sensitivity and increased precision** (reproducibility) of the EXL TnI assay.
 - The upper limit of the TnI reference range will decrease from 0.10 to 0.06 ug/L.
- Revised reference ranges will be implemented for ALT, GGT and Lipase.

Additional Information:

- Siemens Field Service Engineers will perform preventative maintenance procedures on the analyzer approximately 3 times per year. These procedures will take the analyzer out of operation for approximately 8 hours. Whenever possible, advance notification will be provided.

Action Required:

- As the EXL200 is new to the Laboratory staff, it will take some time to gain sufficient experience to maximize efficiency in terms of workflow and turnaround time. Your patience and understanding during this transition period is appreciated.

For additional questions contact:

- Isaac Aliche, Laboratory Supervisor, Drayton Valley Hospital Laboratory at: 780-621-4931.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, Laboratory Services and Central Zone Clinical Department Head - Pathology and Laboratory Medicine