



Memorandum

Date: June 12, 2015

To: Calgary Zone Physicians

From: Dr Lawrence de Koning

Re: Discontinuation of Urine Myoglobin test

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Key Messages:

- On July 1 2015 the urine myoglobin test (UMYO) will be discontinued and all subsequent orders will be cancelled.
- Macroscopic urinalysis (U) should be ordered instead.

Background:

- The urine myoglobin test, which is usually ordered on patients with suspected rhabdomyolysis, is not useful because:
 - (1) it produces a 'positive' result for urine containing either hemoglobin or myoglobin
 - (2) it is identical to macroscopic urinalysis (dipstick) for blood, but includes a centrifugation step to remove red blood cells – however free hemoglobin may still be present and react
 - (3) it is interpreted visually which can produce false positive or false negative results when trace amounts of hemoglobin or myoglobin are present
 - (4) results are mostly identical to those from macroscopic urinalysis

Action Required:

- For suspected rhabdomyolysis, order macroscopic urinalysis for blood, or macroscopic urinalysis with plasma creatine kinase (CK)

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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