



CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOLOGY MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 11, 2015
TO: All physicians SJH and HHSC, Residents, Clinical Educators and Nurse Managers
FROM: Tony Chetty, Discipline Director Clinical Chemistry and Immunology
RE: ACETAMINOPHEN LEVEL TEST- ABBOTT PRODUCT CORRECTION

This letter is to inform you that Abbott Diagnostics through the supplier of their Acetaminophen reagent (Sekisui Diagnostics) has issued a Product Correction for the Abbott ARCHITECT Acetaminophen test.

In brief, significantly reduced Acetaminophen recovery has been demonstrated in situations where testing has been performed immediately after the introduction of NAC (N-acetylcysteine) to the patient.

It has been previously noted that the antidote (NAC) for treating Acetaminophen intoxication produces a very large negative bias in the commonly used enzymatic-colorimetric assays used to measure Acetaminophen concentrations (Clinical Chemistry April 1998 vol. 44 no. 4 892-893). The Abbott Product Correction notice has indicated that the level of NAC resulting in artificially lower Acetaminophen concentrations is significantly lower than what was previously reported by the manufacturer.

On the basis of the present observation, we recommend that patients' blood should be sampled for Acetaminophen levels before the initiation of NAC treatment.

Accordingly, an interim comment on NAC interfering with the Acetaminophen assay will be appended to every Acetaminophen result as we continue our investigation.

“NOTE: Acetaminophen levels may be falsely low immediately after administration of N-acetylcysteine”.

Thank you.

For further information please contact:

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