



DATE: June 13, 2016

TO: All Physicians at HHS and SJH, Clinical Managers and Educators at HHS and SJH,
All Residents

FROM: Dr. Mark Crowther, Core Laboratory Professional Staff Lead
Denise Legeard, HRLMP Project Leader/Six Sigma

RE: CBC Analyzer Go LIVE

The Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program will be going live with its new complete blood cell (CBC) analyzers beginning Monday, June 13th. The actual switch to the new analyzers will be rolled out across the various sites, with each change occurring at approximately 12 noon each day. **On the day your site transitions, there will be delays in testing. Your patience as we make this change at your site is appreciated.**

The current planned site transition schedule is listed in the chart below. However, the schedule may change as we make progress.

Monday, June 13th	Wednesday, June 15th	Thursday, June 16th	Monday, June 20th
Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Clinic	St. Joseph’s Hospital and King St. Campus	McMaster University Medical Centre	Hamilton General and West Lincoln Hospitals

As per the memo sent on June 3rd, there will be new parameters on the CBC reports. The parameter, its abbreviation on the report and the new Reference Intervals are listed below:

New Parameter	Report Abbreviation	Reference Interval
Nucleated Red Blood Cells	NRBCS	0
Absolute Immature Granulocytes	ABS IMM GRANS	0.0 – 0.1
Immature Platelet Fraction	IMM PLT FRACT	1.6 – 10.6
Immature Reticulocyte Fraction	IMM RETIC FRAC	3.2 – 18.7
Reticulocyte Hemoglobin	RETIC HGB	33.0 – 40.2

Additional changes to our report include:

- New Reference Intervals for MCHC on patients greater than 12 years old (315 – 353 g/L)
- New Reference Interval for MPV on all patients (9.3 – 12.5 fL)
- For physicians at the West Lincoln Memorial Site, differentials will now be reported only as absolute numbers; relative counts will no longer be reported

A reminder that as we implement the new analyzers every CBC will be “new” to the analyzer, even if the patient has long-standing abnormalities. As a result, in the first months of implementation, you will see a significantly higher number of smears being performed. This could create delays. Staff will prioritize areas where the timely release of these results is most critical. Ultimately the new software associated with the analyzers will automate many tasks that are currently manual – as a result turn-around-times should be reduced, in some cases substantially.