



DATE: September 16, 2016

TO: Physicians, Residents, Clinical Managers, and Educators at St. Joseph's Healthcare and Hamilton Health Sciences

FROM: Dr. Tony Chetty, Discipline Director Clinical Chemistry and Immunology
Dr. Cynthia Balion, Clinical Chemist

RE: CHANGES TO TESTING FOR DRUGS OF ABUSE – FENTANYL ORDER AVAILABILITY

A Fentanyl screening test has been available to St. Joseph's Healthcare for several months now and will now be available to all locations of St. Joseph's Healthcare and Hamilton Health Sciences, effective September 19th, 2016.

Fentanyl Screen will be available through our Core Laboratories and can be ordered using the order mnemonic: UFENT (Urine Fentanyl).

Cut off Limits: 100 ng/mL for Fentanyl
20 ng/mL for Norfentanyl
This test will be performed 24/7.

Drugs of Abuse Screens are available through our Core Laboratories to the Emergency Department by ordering UERDRUG (No change to previous ordering practice).

We have made available Screening tests for Drugs of Abuse to all other locations through our Clinical Chemistry and Immunology Laboratory at the Hamilton General. Please use the order mnemonic UDRUG. If both Fentanyl and Drugs of Abuse testing are required for areas other than the Emergency Department, two urine samples will be required.

Drug Confirmation tests are available and referred out to external laboratories when necessary. Please contact the Core Laboratory at your site to request the specific drug confirmation required. THC confirmation will be available soon. Consultation with a Clinical Chemist is not required.

Any further enquiries can be directed to Dr. Tony Chetty (ext. 34366), Dr. Cynthia Balion (ext. 33098) or Dr. Joe Macri (ext. 46046).