



DATE: June 15, 2015

TO: Hamilton General Hospital Physicians, Directors and Managers

FROM: Dr. Vina Alexopoulou, Interim Chief of Laboratory Medicine, HHS and SJH
Duane Boychuk, Director of Laboratory Operations

RE: CLOSURE OF LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION CENTRE – GENERAL HOSPITAL

We are connecting with you to let you know that effective Monday June 29nd, 2015 the Laboratory Specimen Collection Centre located on the main floor hallway at the Hamilton General Hospital will be closing.

Those patients requiring routine testing **should** be redirected to the community labs.

We recognize that this is a significant change and as such have implemented a transitional period while this new practice becomes standard.

During the transitional period, patients will be redirected to the Outpatient Collection Area in the Ambulatory Care Department, Main Level, North Wing.

We have included a “Question and Answer” sheet to assist you with this change.

Our goal is a seamless transition. To ensure that this occurs we will be closely monitoring the impact.

Thank you all for your support!

If you have any questions please contact Duane Boychuk at Ext. 34909

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June 22, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions, Specimen Collection Centre Closure

Q. Why are we closing this collection area?

A. The number of patients attending this collection centre is low. Bringing this service to the outpatient department collection area creates a more efficient use of resources and space.

Q. Is the testing laboratory closing?

A. No. There will be no change to the laboratory testing services. We will continue to do all testing, processing, and send-outs to other labs as we have in the past.

Q. Where will patients requiring lab collection for research studies be collected?

A. Research Coordinators will be drawing their own samples at a location that is currently being reviewed for ease of access. At present, these patients will be processed through the outpatient department collection area between the hours of 0800 and 1130 Monday to Friday.

Q. How can I find specific specimen testing ordering, collection, and transport guidance?

A. The Laboratory Test Information Guide is available on the HHS intranet under Related Links, or by accessing this link:

<http://www.ltig.hrlmp.ca/>

Q. Will my patients have to pay for specialized tests? For example, PSA, Vitamin D, AFP, (delisted OHIP tests or Non-OHIP funded)?

A. No. These will continue to be supported by the Laboratory. Patients will have their blood drawn in the outpatient department collection area.

Q. Where do my patients drop off their 24-hour urine containers?

A. These can be left by the patient in the new outpatient department collection area in the Ambulatory Care Centre, or in the clinic. Porters can deliver them to the Laboratory.

Q. Is there an option for my patients to use private labs for better convenience?

A. Yes. The private laboratories are aware of the changes that are occurring. Provide your patient with an OHIP requisition to have their routine blood done at one of many community collection centres.

Q. What are the hours for the Ambulatory Care outpatient collection area?

A. Blood procurement will occur Monday to Friday, 0800 to 1130. There will be no procurement on weekends or statutory holidays.