



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Physicians, Residents, Nurses, and Ward/Clinic Clerks – Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare

**FROM:** Dr. Mark Crowther, Hematology Professional Lead, Core Laboratory, HRLMP  
Ms. Tracy Carrier, Manager, Core Laboratories and Specimen Collection Centres, Juravinski and Hamilton General Hospital sites, HRLMP

**DATE:** May 6, 2015

**RE:** **CORE LABORATORY CHANGES**

---

As a result of changes in Core Laboratory processes, the following changes will be implemented on **Tuesday, May 26, 2015**. These modifications will improve the quality of our reporting and reduce the need for clinicians to contact the laboratory for clarification of results.

### 1. Cord blood CBC

A new ordering code allowing Labour and Delivery Units to order a cord blood CBC will be implemented. This order (**CBCCORD**) will produce a hemoglobin and platelet count. Other indices will not be reported. There will be no critical values for this test, given the observation of very wide ranges of expected values in the results of cord blood CBCs. If a sample indicated to be a cord blood is received in the laboratory without this code, it will be converted. As a result, "traditional" CBC results will no longer be recorded on cord blood samples and the laboratory will not contact Labour and Delivery Units with critical results from cord blood samples.

### 2. Platelet count

A new test mnemonic (**PLTCIT**) will be available that will allow ordering of a platelet count in a citrate sample (typically undertaken if there is platelet clumping with an EDTA sample). The resultant test result will only report the platelet count. Use of this code will eliminate falsely reduced hemoglobin and white blood cell counts reported when a CBC is run on a blue top tube.

### 3. CSF samples

A new test mnemonic (**SFCCS**) will be available for CSF samples from CSF shunts. This result will eliminate critical values and allow clinicians and the laboratory to differentiate CSF samples obtained via lumbar puncture from those obtained from a shunt. Critical test results will continue to be called on lumbar puncture derived CSF samples.

### 4. Thrombin Clotting Time (TCT)

The TCT (thrombin clotting time) will be removed from a number of orders sets. The utility of the TCT has been reduced by the increasing use of direct thrombin inhibitors and we are concerned that an elevated TCT reported as part of a predefined order set may now be misleading to clinicians.