



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 1, 2016  
**TO:** Paediatricians and Obstetricians/Gynecologists at St. Joseph's Healthcare  
**FROM:** Dr. Mark Crowther, Laboratory Hematologist  
**RE:** **Discontinuation of Blood Cell Analysis on Neonatal Samples from Tubes Containing Clots**

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Effective immediately, the laboratory will no longer provide blood cell analysis on neonatal samples from tubes containing clots.

While we realize that these samples are difficult to procure and are more likely to have clotting than normal blood cell analysis tubes, we have made this change because we cannot be confident in the accuracy of the results we are reporting.

Aggregation of platelets and/or white blood cells in the clot could cause fictitious reductions in counts that might prompt inappropriate clinical interventions. Additionally, the hemoglobin/hematocrit will be inaccurate due to sequestration within the clot.

This change will also ensure St Joseph's Healthcare's practice is consistent with our other regional partners.