



DATE: September 8, 2014

TO: Gastroenterologists at Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare

FROM: Dr. Tony Chetty, Discipline Director, Clinical Chemistry/Immunology

RE: **FECAL CALPROTECTIN TEST**

A few months ago a message was sent advising you of the availability of this test to the clinicians of Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph Healthcare, Hamilton, through the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program.

We would like to inform you also that the test is available to physicians across Canada in both community and hospital settings. Community ordered tests would be channeled through the private laboratory sector, while most hospital tests, aside from our own, would come through In-Common Laboratory [ICL], who will also provide courier and specimen handling services.

There is now considerable evidence supporting the economic benefit of calprotectin testing in the health care system. As you know, fecal calprotectin is emerging in both the diagnosis and monitoring of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It is also an excellent marker to discriminate between organic (IBD) and non-organic bowel disease (irritable bowel syndrome; IBS). Its primary advantage is the reduction in the number of endoscopic procedures endured by patients (very useful/helpful in children). We have sent a message to external customers who use the HRLMP testing services currently, to make them aware of the test and have attached that communication for your information.

The test does require a fee from patients in the community setting and from referring hospitals outside of Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare. Although there is a fee, our understanding is that our fee of \$60 [also \$60 through ICL] is significantly lower than any other current source of the test. We believe it is important to keep the costs as low as we can to increase accessibility to this valuable new diagnostic tool.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact Dr. Waliul Khan at 905-521-2100 Ext. 76397 or at khanwal@hhsc.ca.