



CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOLOGY MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2015

TO: HHS and SJH Physicians, Residents, Clinical Managers, and Clinical Educators

FROM: Tony Chetty, Discipline Director Clinical Chemistry and Immunology

RE: **New assay for serum beta-hydroxybutyrate and a laboratory directed change in order for serum ketones**

Effective June 1, 2015, the HRLMP will no longer offer qualitative serum ketone analysis. All ketone requests will be ordered as beta-hydroxybutyrate and a quantitative result will be provided. Urine ketones remain available as a qualitative screen as part of the routine urinalysis order.

Beta-hydroxybutyrate is the ketone of interest in both diabetic ketoacidosis and alcoholic ketoacidosis. It is also the clinically important ketone in the differential diagnosis of neonatal and paediatric hypoglycemia and is useful in the monitoring of ketone-inducing diets.

Clinicians specifically requesting acetoacetate or acetone should contact the biochemist on-call to discuss the request.

Importantly, this test will now be available 24/7 at the McMaster Hospital Core Laboratory. Samples from other sites will be transported to MUMC as required.

For further information please contact:

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Dr. Stephen Hill, Clinical Biochemist
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