



DATE: August 25, 2015

TO: All Physicians, Residents, Clinical Managers, and Educators at St. Joseph's Healthcare and Hamilton Health Sciences

FROM: Dr. C. Ross, Pathologist, Flow Cytometry & Hematologic Pathology, HRLMP
Dr. M. Verhovsek, Consultant Hematologist, Red Cell Disorders, HRLMP
David Kimmel, Technical Specialist, Malignant Hematology, HRLMP
Linda Halchuk, Senior Technologist, Red Cell Disorders, HRLMP
Teresa DiFrancesco, Manager, Malignant Hematology, HRLMP

RE: **New Test for Hereditary Spherocytosis: Eosin-5-maleimide (EMA) by Flow Cytometry replaces Osmotic Fragility – Effective September 28, 2015**

The Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRLMP) is pleased to announce the availability of a new screening test for Hereditary Spherocytosis. The Eosin-5-maleimide (EMA) test by flow cytometry is a highly sensitive and specific test for red blood cell band 3 defects. The EMA test is a helpful first-line test in cases of suspected hemolytic anemia from red blood cell membrane defects. The EMA test replaces the Osmotic Fragility (OF) test currently offered.

As of September 28th 2015, the OF test will no longer be available and the EMA test should be ordered. Testing requires a minimum of 0.5 mL EDTA anticoagulated whole blood. Specimens should be stored and shipped at 4°C. The specimen must be received within 48 hours from the time of collection. Specimens will be accepted Monday through Wednesday from 7am through 5pm and Thursday from 7am through noon. Turnaround time is 72 hours.

The EMA test can be ordered as CMEMA. Results will be reported as positive, negative or equivocal; interpretive comments will be included.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these changes, please contact David Kimmel, Technical Specialist, Malignant Hematology, by phone at 905-521-2100 ext. 42082.