



MEMORANDUM

TO: Physicians, Residents, Nurses, and Medical Students
Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton

FROM: Dr. Menaka Pai, Consultant Laboratory Hematologist, HRLMP
Dr. Shannon Bates, Discipline Director, Hematology, HRLMP

DATE: June 6, 2014

RE: **Write-in Comments on Laboratory Requisitions Requesting Telephone or Fax Reporting of Results**

Dear Colleagues,

Clinicians sometimes include write-in comments on HRLMP laboratory requisitions requesting that test results be called to specific physicians or faxed to specific locations. The Core Hematology Laboratory has been able to fulfill these requests in the past. However, with increased automation (enabling faster release of accurate results), it is no longer possible for laboratory staff to make note of these write-in comments. Therefore, clinicians need to be aware that these written requests can no longer be honoured, effective immediately.

Laboratory results will continue to be easily accessible through Meditech and Clinical Connect. They will continue to be distributed by mail to ordering physicians and to physicians listed to be copied on the requisition. Critical results - results that indicate that the patient is in imminent danger unless treatment is initiated immediately - will continue to be telephoned to clinicians within 30 minutes, as per our current practice.

We appreciate that the loss of telephone and fax reporting of results may impact your practice; however, it is unavoidable as we move towards increased automation. Please contact us if you have questions about this process change.