



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 25, 2016

TO: All physicians and residents at Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare, Clinical Managers and Educators at HHS and SJH

FROM: Madeleine Verhovsek – Consultant Laboratory Hematologist, Red Blood Cell Disorders Laboratory
Linda Halchuk – Senior Technologist, Molecular Hematology and Genetics
Teresa DiFrancesco – Manager, Special Hematology, Transfusion Medicine, and Genetics

RE: PKA Testing – Notice of Change Effective August 29, 2016

Effective August 29th 2016, Pyruvate Kinase Assays (mnemonic: PKA) will once again be made available for inpatients and clinic patients/outpatients at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) (McMaster, Hamilton General, Juravinski sites only) and St. Joseph's Healthcare (SJH). We are pleased to be able to provide this testing again but need your help to ensure that we receive a viable specimen for testing.

Any sample sent for PKA must be approved by a hematologist.

A new protocol for drawing PKA is being implemented. An update is available on the Lab Test Information Guide (LTIG) <http://www.ltig.hrlmp.ca/ViewTestHRLMP.aspx?testID=1625>. The sample must be maintained at a cold temperature from the blood draw through to delivery at the laboratory in order to ensure accurate results. Please ensure there is a cup with wet ice available before drawing the patient's sample. Once the sample is labelled, it should be placed in the cup with wet ice and sent to the Core Laboratory as soon as possible. Please call the Core Laboratory to notify them that a PKA sample is being sent.

Any questions about PKA testing can be directed to the Red Cell Disorders Laboratory at MUMC 2N22; extension 72645.