



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 15, 2017

**TO:** Dr. William Krizmanich, Chief Emergency Medicine HHS;  
Dr. Ian Preyra, Chief Emergency Medicine SJH;  
Tara Coffin-Simpson, Nurse Manager ER SJH; Tammy Robinson, Nurse Manager Urgent Care SJH;  
Tammy Walker, Manager ER JHCC; Denise Riggs, Manager ER General;  
Christine Chaston, Manager ER McMaster; Kelly Vaillancourt, Manager ER West Lincoln;  
Carrie Lynn Meyer, Manager Urgent Care HHS

**FROM:** Dr. John Fernandes, Chief Department of Laboratory Medicine  
Dr. Tony Chetty, Discipline Director, Core Laboratories and Clinical Chemistry/Immunology  
Duane Boychuk, Director of Laboratory Operations

**RE:** **Changes to STAT Courier Services for Laboratory Specimens between 2000h and 0800h**

Over the past several months, the HRLMP has completed a detailed analysis of the usage of Dynacare STAT courier service for the delivery of laboratory specimens. On average, the HRLMP has been spending close to \$1,000 per day on STAT calls, which equates to more than \$300,000 per year.

The majority of testing required STAT during the night (2000h to 0800h) is performed on site; however, some tests are sent off site for testing.

As of August 15, 2017, we will be reducing the delivery of STAT specimens between sites from 2000h to 0800h. There will be three scheduled specimen transport runs throughout the night. Specimens will no longer be sent STAT, unless they have been approved by the Laboratory professional on-call, or are one of the following approved tests:

- CSF for gram stain (Microbiology)
- Pediatric CRP
- Blood smears when requested by Malignant Hematology
- Tissue for necrotizing fasciitis
- Transfusion Medicine tests
- Any hematology-specific test cleared by the hematologist on call

If a test is ordered STAT that requires off-site testing during the night, the laboratory staff will inform the requesting physician of the next available courier run. If results are needed more urgently, the requesting physician will need to contact the Laboratory MD/PhD on-call for approval.