The laboratory is offering two new order codes within the blood gas panel for use in critically ill patients. These new orders codes, labelled CRITABG and CRITVBG, offer a complete panel of tests with a faster turn-around time. In an effort to maintain the integrity for their use and the decreased turn-around time associated with them, please restrict the use of these new test panels to critically ill patients. These new order codes will become available on May 27, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Test Specific Orders</th>
<th>Order Codes for Panels</th>
<th>Critical Values (Adults)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABG</td>
<td>CRITABG</td>
<td>VBG</td>
<td>CRITVBG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Hemoglobin               |                      | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 60 g/L
|                          |                      |                         |                          | ≥ 200 g/L
| Glucose Random           | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 2.5 mmol/L
|                          |                      |                         |                          | ≥ 25 mmol/L
| Sodium                   |                      | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 120 mmol/L
|                          |                      |                         |                          | ≥ 160 mmol/L
| Potassium                |                      | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 2.5 mmol/L
|                          |                      |                         |                          | ≥ 6.5 mmol/L
| Chloride                 |                      | ✓                       | ✓                        | -
| Lactate                  | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≥ 4.0 mmol/L
| Hydrogen Ion             | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≥ 4.0 mmol/L
| pH                       | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 7.00
|                          |                      |                         |                          | ≥ 7.70
| PCO2                     | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 35 mmHg*
| PO2                      | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | -
| Bicarbonate (Calc)       | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | ≤ 10 mmol/L
| Base Excess              | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | -
| O2 Sat Measured          | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                        | -
| Ion Calcium              |                      |                         |                          | ≤ 0.6

* Denotes arterial blood

Please note, potassium values measured on the whole blood balanced heparin syringe have a slight negative bias (about 5%) compared to plasma potassium values measured from a lithium heparin Vacutainer.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tony Chetty at chetty@hhsc.ca or Dr. Cynthia Balion at balion@hhsc.ca.