

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

INR Determination on Hemolyzed Samples

April 15, 2020

This information applies to: *Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and QEH Nurse Educators*

Hemolysis is commonly induced during sample collection, and interferes with many tests / instruments that utilize photo-optical detection.

The QEH coagulation instruments, however, use a mechanical detection system which, theoretically, should be immune to this interference. With the completion of in-house testing to prove that hemolysis has no significant effect on the INR in our system, the QEH coagulation laboratory is able to offer INR testing on significantly hemolyzed samples.

Effective May 1, 2020, samples submitted for INR testing at the QEH will not be rejected if hemolyzed.

This applies ONLY to the PT / INR tested at the QEH.

- If other coagulation testing is requested, a non-hemolyzed sample will be required
- Other testing sites in PEI use photo-optical coagulation testing, and cannot perform INR testing on a hemolyzed sample

Please ensure that sodium citrate samples for coagulation testing are **never** stored in the refrigerator or placed on ice for transport to the lab. Coagulation samples that are received chilled in any way will be rejected.

For more information, contact:

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