

PROVINCIAL LABORATORY SERVICES COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Directors of Nursing, Nurse Managers, Clinical Instructors/Educators, PEI Hospital Laboratories

FROM: Clinical Chemistry Services

DATE: May 15, 2015

RE: **Important Laboratory Information**

Intact Parathyroid Reference Interval Change

In February 2014, in-house iPTH testing was suspended following a reagent recall from Abbott Diagnostics. All specimens were subsequently referred off island for analysis. In April 2014, Abbott re-released the PTH assay within Canada. After careful evaluation we have confirmed that Abbott's iPTH routine method sufficiently correlates with the assay used by the referral lab. Testing will be repatriated as of May 26, 2015.

Accordingly, the new Reference Interval is 2.0 – 9.4 mmol/L.

STAT TCA at QEH

Stat **Serum Tricyclic Antidepressant (TCA)** screening in patients with suspected drug toxicity is no longer available at **QEH Laboratory** due to analyzer changes. **Urine TCA is available** for STAT screening. Routine Serum TCA is still available. There is **no change in PCH Stat** testing.

We are investigating the provision of stat **serum** TCA screen test in the future but do not know the time line at this point

Changes in Creatinine Critical Value and Protocol for Calling Physicians

Critical test results are defined as any result or findings that may be considered life threatening and requires urgent or emergent clinical attention.

It is the policy of Provincial Laboratories of Health PEI to verbally report critical values to the requesting/covering physician.

Due to the nature of serum creatinine and its variability in dialysis patients, as of June 9th, 2015, the critical value of creatinine will be lowered to 400 umol/L.

In the event of creatinine levels of 400 umol/L or greater are obtained, one of the following actions will be taken:

FIRST TIME CRITICAL (OR FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS)

- Result will be called to the ordering/covering physician any time during the day or night

REPEAT CRITICAL VALUE

- Will be called only if increased by \geq 25%

REPEAT CRITICAL VALUE OF 25% OR MORE

- Will be called during the hours of 8:00 – 17:00

DIALYSIS UNIT PATIENTS

- Critical creatinine values will not be called for specimens from dialysis unit

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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