## **Blood Collection Tube Change for Lactic Acid to Improve Turnaround Times**

Effective April 2<sup>nd</sup>, <u>all hospital based locations</u> collecting samples for Lactic Acid will change from a gray on ice tube to a room temperature green no gel tube. The move from a plasma based sample on ice to a whole blood sample received and tested within 30 minutes (same process for blood gas testing). Tubes will be exchanged out by Central Supply and stocked per your unit's par level guidelines.

Welcome to *In the Loop*, the
newsletter from
UnityPoint Health –
Des Moines
Laboratories.

The purpose of this newsletter is to distribute valuable information to our service area, including new test availability, test updates regarding methodology, specimen collection, and normal values.

We may also include feature topics related to laboratory diagnostics and test utilization.

If you have suggestions for topics you would like to read about in the newsletter, please email <a href="Kimberly.VonAhsen@unitypoint.org">Kimberly.VonAhsen@unitypoint.org</a>

Beginning Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the preferred sample to be collected for hospital based locations will be the **GREEN** (No Gel) Lithium Heparin tube sent at room temperature. This sample needs to be collected, received in the laboratory and tested within 30 minutes.



## Why is this change so important?

*Treating Sepsis is an emergency!* Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is life-threatening, and without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly cause tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Sepsis happens when an infection you already have — in your skin, lungs, urinary tract or somewhere else — triggers a chain reaction throughout your body.

- 7-8% increase in mortality risk for every hour delay in antibiotic delivery
- Aggressiveness of early management (within 3 hours of sepsis presentation) is, in part, dependent upon the lactic acid result. Elevated lactic acid identifies these patients as having an increased risk of death or decompensation, thus requiring more aggressive management.

Lactate acid times are being monitored as a system-wide process improvement initiative to standardize ordering practice and eliminate variables that impact the collection, processing, and testing phases. All these efforts are to ensure for the sharing of best practice and rapid diagnosis of sepsis especially in the Emergency Department. Below are the goals set by the system.

Collect to Result GOAL	30 minutes	
2017 Median Collect to Result Times	Lutheran	40 minutes
	Methodist	44 minutes
	West	44 minutes

To meet the system goal of 30 minutes from Collect to Result, the laboratory looked at the process steps under our control. These included the collection process, sample submission/processing, and testing time on the analyzer. The move from plasma to whole blood testing allows for a decrease in time in all three aspects of testing by:

- Eliminating submitting samples on ice.
- Centrifuging the samples.
- Analyzer testing time decreases from an average 25 minutes to 1.5 minutes.



Website which includes

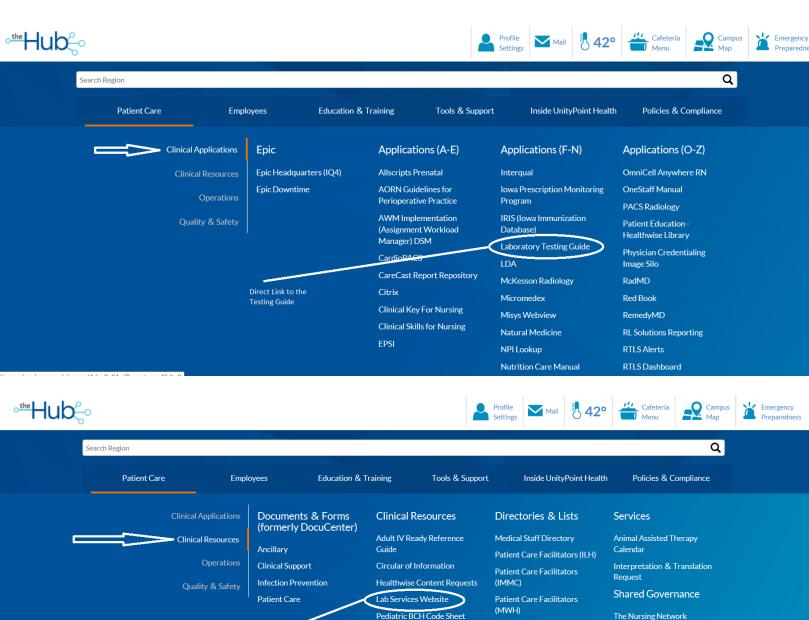
concerning laboratory services.

the Laboratory Testing Guide, News

Policies/procedures are located on the Hub

## Finding the Laboratory Testing Guide and Website on the Hub

Laboratory is located under Patient Care Testing Guide -> Clinical Applications Website -> Clinical Resources



Pediatric

References

Hematology/Oncology

Pharmacy Resources Sitter Toolkit

Pediatric IV Ready Reference

The Nursing Network

Clinical Informatics Support

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