



Blood Collection Tube Change for Lactic Acid to Improve Turnaround Times

Effective April 2nd, all hospital based locations 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 Kimberly.VonAhsen@unitypoint.org

Beginning Monday April 2nd, 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	Lutheran	40 minutes
Collect to Result Times	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.



Finding the Laboratory Testing Guide and Website on the Hub

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

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- Tools & Support
- Inside UnityPoint Health
- Policies & Compliance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Applications Clinical Resources Operations Quality & Safety 	<p>Epic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epic Headquarters (IQ4) Epic Downtime <p>Direct Link to the Testing Guide</p>	<p>Applications (A-E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allscripts Prenatal AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice AWM Implementation (Assignment Workload Manager) DSM CardioPACS CareCast Report Repository Citrix Clinical Key For Nursing Clinical Skills for Nursing EPSI 	<p>Applications (F-N)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interqual Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program IRIS (Iowa Immunization Database) Laboratory Testing Guide LDA McKesson Radiology Micromedex Misys Webview Natural Medicine NPI Lookup Nutrition Care Manual 	<p>Applications (O-Z)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OmniCell Anywhere RN OneStaff Manual PACS Radiology Patient Education - Healthwise Library Physician Credentialing Image Silo RadMD Red Book RemedyMD RL Solutions Reporting RTLS Alerts RTLS Dashboard
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Applications Clinical Resources Operations Quality & Safety 	<p>Documents & Forms (formerly DocuCenter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancillary Clinical Support Infection Prevention Patient Care <p>Website which includes the Laboratory Testing Guide, News Articles, and other important documents concerning laboratory services.</p> <p>Note - Policies/procedures are located on the Hub</p>	<p>Clinical Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult IV Ready Reference Guide Circular of Information Healthwise Content Requests Lab Services Website Pediatric BCH Code Sheet Pediatric Hematology/Oncology References Pediatric IV Ready Reference Guide Pharmacy Resources Sitter Toolkit Stroke Resources 	<p>Directories & Lists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Staff Directory Patient Care Facilitators (ILH) Patient Care Facilitators (IMMC) Patient Care Facilitators (MWH) Clinical Informatics Support TV Channels (ILH) TV Channels (IMMC/Blank) TV Channels (MWH) 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Assisted Therapy Calendar Interpretation & Translation Request Shared Governance The Nursing Network
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