



## Capital Health

June 24, 2013

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Referring Hospitals within Nova Scotia

**FROM:** Dr. Irene Sadek  
Chief of Service, Division of Hematopathology

Dr. Bassam A. Nassar  
Medical Director, Hematology-Immunology Section  
Capital Health

**RE: Complement C4 Testing**

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We have been informed by Beckman Coulter Canada Inc., the vendor for reagents used in Complement C4 testing, that serum samples frozen for longer than seven days prior to testing may produce a positive bias that results in falsely higher concentrations being detected. Due to the deteriorating nature of complement, all samples from referring hospitals must be sent frozen.

To ensure that such errors are avoided, samples should be sent to our Laboratory as soon as possible after being collected in order for testing to be performed within the seven day time frame. Samples received later than seven days after collection will not be tested.

Please contact us at 902-473-6664 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

C. Dr. J. Godfrey Heathcote  
Ms. Fran O'Brien  
Mr. Eugene Smith  
Ms. Beverly Twohig