



Capital Health

IMPORTANT HEMATOLOGY CHANGE NOTICE

To: **All CDHA Hospital Physicians, Family Physicians and Health Service Directors**

From: **Dr Irene Sadek**
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Eugene Smith
Technical Manager, Division of Hematology

Date: **January 17, 2014**

Subject: **New Hematology Cell Counter Instrumentation and Reference Ranges**

Please ensure that all affected personnel are aware of this important change notice.

On Sunday, January 19, 2014, Hematology at the VG and HI sites will be going live with new instrumentation for analyzing CBC specimens as part of the Automated Laboratory initiative. This instrumentation, based on new fluorescent dyes, offers innovative technologies that deliver the most comprehensive CBC and differential available through advanced cellular specificity.

This is a major change for Hematology as our current technology has been in place since 1988. We ask for your patience during the transition period as routine testing may take longer to process. All STAT and URGENT specimens will be given the highest priority as we strive to report results. To support us during this period, please use the appropriate specimen priority so that the reporting of true emergencies are not delayed by less urgent requests.

This technology has resulted in changes to CDHA normal reference ranges. The new preliminary reference ranges have changed the MCHC and MPV values (MCHC: 315-350 g/L; MPV: 9.0-12.5 fL). The reference ranges will be updated in 3 months based on our current patient population.

A new parameter, known as Immature Granulocytes (IG), extends the WBC differential from a 5-part to a 6-part differential and will now be included in the automated WBC report. The IG count is an enumeration of metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes present in the CBC blood sample. This count does not include band neutrophil forms. The Immature Granulocyte count is reported as an absolute number (new reference range 0.0 – 0.9) and as a percentage of the total WBC count.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Irene Sadek at 473-8471 or Eugene Smith at 473-6678. Thank you for your cooperation as Hematology continues to optimize services to support high-quality patient care.

Healthy People, Healthy Communities