



Capital Health

October 24, 2014

**Divisions of Hematopathology
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
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MEMORANDUM

TO: CDHA Health Service Directors and Provincial Laboratory Managers

FROM: Dr. Allam Shawwa
Medical Director, Hematology-Coagulation Section

Beverly Twohig
Supervisor, Hematology-Coagulation Section

RE: **New Specimen Collection Requirements for Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) Testing**

Hematopathology is changing the specimen collection requirements for **Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT)** testing effective November 1st, 2014.

Please be advised that this change requires a **3.2 % sodium citrate tube (plasma)** be sent for testing along with **the 2 Plain Red Serum Tubes (2 x 6 or 10 ml)**.

Note: Samples anticoagulated with heparin are not suitable for testing with this assay and must not be used.

Processing instructions for Referring Laboratories:

1. Double spin *serum* and separate into six (6) 1.0 ml aliquots. **Clearly mark that the sample is serum.** Send frozen on dry ice. Serum must be platelet poor.
2. Double spin *plasma* and separate into two (2) 1.0 ml aliquots. **Clearly mark that the sample is plasma.** Send frozen on dry ice. Plasma must be platelet poor.
3. Send QE Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia Questionnaire Form along with samples.

Please contact the Coagulation Laboratory (902-473-4059) if you have any questions regarding this matter.