



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

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To: Capital Health Clinics and Physicians
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From: Dr. Bassam Nassar
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Date: June 5, 2013

Subject: **Discontinuance of Prostate Specific Antigen Testing Using the Siemens Diagnostics Immulite Assay**

We have been informed by Siemens Diagnostics, vendor of the total prostate specific antigen (tPSA) assay for our Immulite XP instruments, that they will discontinue providing testing material for this analyte until the end of June 2013 at the earliest. The reason provided by Siemens for discontinuance is their acknowledgment of a positive bias in the assay against the World Health Organization standard material 96/670, the material used to calibrate the assay. This decision will similarly affect free PSA (fPSA) testing.

To address the upcoming unavailability of tPSA and fPSA, we are presently evaluating two alternate methods and will resume testing by the end of June, when we expect our evaluations to be finalized. For this reason, we would appreciate your withholding screening for routine purposes until full testing is restored. Importantly, samples requiring clinically warranted urgent testing or those that previously tested high but require confirmation will be referred out to University Health Network Laboratories at the Toronto General Hospital in Ontario. Additionally, due to this development, the repeat cancellation rule for PSA will be removed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you for your attention

CC. Ms. Fran O'Brien
Dr. Godfrey Heathcote
Ms. Sandy Schlay
Ms. Faye Lively