



Capital Health

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Physicians who manage patients with hepatitis C:  
**FROM:** Dr. Todd Hatchette / Dr Jason LeBlanc  
Directors, Virology and Immunology Section  
**DATE:** June 27, 2012  
**RE:** HCV genotype report changes

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I want to make you aware of a change you will notice on future HCV genotype results. Genotype 1 reports will now contain the caveat: (THE POSSIBILITY OF GENOTYPE 6 CANNOT BE EXCLUDED).

The reason behind the change: During a recent review of standard operating procedures it was noted that when we switched to a newer version of the genotype assay in 2006 we lost the ability to differentiate between genotypes 1 and 6. This nuance was missed and we continued to report the results as we had previously. Since then, any genotype 6 infection would have been reported as genotype 1.

Clinical implications: Given that genotype 1 and 6 are not treated differently there should be no impact on patient care. This has highlighted a quality issue that we are working to correct. We have sent our most recent genotype 1 specimens to the NML for genetic sequencing to see if we have had any genotype 6 that were missed. In addition we will be looking at a different PCR method for the genotyping procedure. This would enable us to differentiate genotypes 1 from 6 but this validation will take some time.

If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to contact me so I can address them

Sincerely,

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