



Physician Alert



April 14, 2014

FLOW CYTOMETRY SECTION CHANGES in INSTRUMENTATION AND REPORTING

The DSM Flow cytometry section is replacing aging equipment with more current ten color technology. Extensive verification, comparison, validation and test upgrading is being undertaken. This will result in various changes to the current practices, including reporting formats. Your understanding and support during this important continuous quality improvement initiative is appreciated.

The transition will be staggered with each stage being preceded by an alert to users. The first set of changes will occur in May 2014, and will involve the following tests:

CD4/CD8 (PB48) and Lymphocyte Subset Enumeration (PBEN)

New age related reference ranges will be adopted for both tests. The new reference intervals are generally wider than the current.

Hereditary Spherocytosis Test (EMA) (HSFC)

New reference ranges will be adopted. They are similar to the ranges used by our external reference laboratory for this test (BC Children's and Women's Health Centre)

A new reporting format will now include test specifications.

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (GPI-anchor protein detection test) (PNH)

New GPI-anchor protein CD157 replaces CD 14 and CD24 for monocyte and granulocyte populations.

A change in the reporting format will also include new interpretive comments

The test limit of detection remains at 0.1%

Oxidative Burst Activity Neutrophils (OBRT)

A change in the reporting format and interpretive comments

Please contact the undersigned with any questions:

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