



December 7, 2015

TRANSFER of WESTMAN LAB IMMUNOLOGY TESTING to IMMUNOLOGY LABORATORY HSC

Effective Date: January 4, 2016

Affected tests are **Monoclonal Protein Investigation** (MPI or PE) and **Immunoglobulin Quantitation** (IgG, IgA, IgM, Rheumatoid Factor)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Supervision and reporting for all these tests will be provided by the Hematopathologists during their Immunology rotation. DSM Immunology will provide the service from the HSC site, as it uses the most sensitive methods for monoclonal protein detection with an immunofixation/gel based system (PE) and nephelometry (IgG, IgA, IgM, and RF)
All specimens will be transported directly to this laboratory.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?

- There will be no significant change to TAT. In general, negative MPI work-ups will have a shorter TAT.
- Immunoglobulin quantitation will only be reported for cases with an abnormal or suspected abnormal MPI.
- Rheumatoid Factor (RF) reference range will change to 0-20 U/ml. For patients where RF is being used for longitudinal follow-up and trending, re-establishment of a baseline should be considered.
- There will be minimal changes to IgG, IgA, and IgM age-related reference ranges which are printed with each result.
- Quantitation of the monoclonal immunoglobulins will be unified and seamless.
- For best TAT, we recommend the use of the specific DSM Immunology requisition (attached), which can be downloaded from the LIM link <https://apps.sbgh.mb.ca/labmanual/test/loadDocumentPdf?documentId=55>

WHY?

To improve patient care by standardization of methodologies with more effective service delivery

- Two different test methods are used by each site for monoclonal protein investigation. This was identified as a source of result discrepancies depending upon where the specimen was processed. Since patients are followed both centrally and in the community at various phases of their cancer journey, this dual service could interfere with consistent patient care.
- Provision of testing by two laboratories often leads to confusion for the requesting sites and has resulted in a duplication of testing for a single collection.
- Although more automated, the Westman capillary electrophoresis system has sensitivity limitations. Testing algorithms are used to mitigate this situation, but in many cases, this results in service duplication since specimens are sent to the HSC lab for re-assessment using the more sensitive immunofixation/gel-based system.
- A standardized reference range for the provincial Rheumatoid Factor testing

Any questions or concerns may be directed to:

Dr. Carmen Morales, Medical Director, Hematology and Immunology Disciplines, 204-787-4682, cmorales@dsmanitoba.ca
Sheila Ozamoto, Technical Director, Immunology, 204-787-3407, sozamoto@dsmanitoba.ca

- 1 -