



Clinical Practice Change Alert



Change to INR Testing Process

Date Effective: May 2, 2016

Summary of Information:

- DSM will be providing a 24h TAT for INR tests for routine monitoring patients on long term warfarin and other non-urgent use. To ensure that results are ready for review at scheduled appointments, a previous day sample collection is recommended.

Change in or New Test Procedure:

- Patient samples requiring INR testing for routine monitoring will now be transported offsite to a regional reference laboratory. This includes patients starting on warfarin or dosage management while receiving antibiotic therapy. Results will be available within 24 hours.
- Exceptions for which expedited results will be available include:
 - Critical situations where INR results are required urgently to investigate active bleeding;
 - When urgent management decisions require INR results to exclude the presence of warfarin (i.e. to initiate thrombolytic therapy); and
 - When a rapid INR TAT would expedite clinical situations (i.e. to discharge patient new on warfarin).

Patient Impact:

- To ensure that INR test results are available for doctors to review with patients at scheduled appointments, patients will need to have collections done at the laboratory 24 to 48 hours in advance of appointments.
- Alternatively, patients may choose to visit a regional reference laboratory that can accommodate same day test results. See Patient Information Sheet for list of sites.

More information:

- DSM has prepared a Patient Information Sheet regarding the service change that physicians can provide to patients – available here: http://dsmanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/HEM_INR_PatientInfo.pdf

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