

*****IMPORTANT LAB UPDATE*****

To: HML Clients
From: Stephanie McGlone, Site Manager Lab Services, St. Joseph's Hospital, 651-232-3786
Date: June, 25th, 2019
Subject: Change to acceptable specimen for carboxyhemoglobin: plastic lithium heparin tubes no longer acceptable.

BD, the manufacturer of the plastic lithium heparin tubes, has issued a product notification recall for these tubes when used to analyze venous blood samples for carboxyhemoglobin (COHb). BD states that the tubes may yield results with a false elevation of COHb, when testing is performed on the GEM 4000 instrument. All Legacy HealthEast laboratories utilize this instrumentation.

BD has confirmed the potential for a positive 1.2% (absolute) mean bias on the GEM 4000 instrument. The health risk associated with a false-positive COHb is considered minimal because clinically relevant oxygen toxicity would be unlikely to occur during short exposure to oxygen therapy.

Carboxyhemoglobin is a low volume test and HML has reviewed all patient results from the last 90 days to evaluate impact. There were no critical results found in the 38 specimens received for testing. Due to the positive bias regarding COHb, the decision has been made to discontinue the use of plastic lithium heparin tubes as an acceptable specimen for carboxyhemoglobin testing performed on the GEM 4000.

Effective 6/25/2019, HML will no longer accept plastic lithium heparin tubes for carboxyhemoglobin testing.

Collection information for Carboxyhemoglobin: 1ml of whole blood in a syringe (dry lithium heparin) on wet ice. Specimen must arrive within 72 hours.
Specimen should be drawn free of air, **replace needle with cap**, and mix well for 30 seconds by inversion and rolling between palms. DO NOT remove cap before testing.

Please contact Stephanie McGlone, smcglone@healtheast.org with questions or for more information.