



25<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Laboratory Test Requestor,

**RE: Laboratory Tests Results/Éclair comparability project**

As part of a comparability project between Canterbury Health Laboratories, Southern Community Laboratories and MedLab South a number of changes are occurring to both Haematology and Biochemistry reports.

The project is aimed at standardising reference intervals, but also includes some additional changes to ensure result formats are similar regardless of their laboratory of origin.

It is hoped that through the implementation of this system, unnecessary repeat bleeds can be avoided as patients transition between primary and secondary care.

**The changes should not alter clinical care of the patients as the result itself will not change, just the reference interval.** Most changes are very small, except for children, where some ranges have been introduced where none existed before

Standardisation includes Test Name, Reference Interval, Units, Decimal Places, LOINC Codes. This may cause changes to the way your hard copy reports appear or the recognition of HL7 messages that are being sent to you.

Haematology reference intervals went live on 16<sup>th</sup> September at Canterbury Health Laboratories.

The analytes that have Adult reference intervals changing at CHL are:

Haematocrit	MCH	MCHC
MCV	Monocytes	Neutrophils
Platelets	RBC	RDW
Reticulocytes		

All parameters of the CBC are now reporting paediatric reference intervals as agreed by the North Island Quality Assurance Group (NorthQAG) and the South Island Quality Assurance Group (SIQAG) for Haematology.

There was also a change in the reports resulting in Red Blood Cell counts (RBC) and Red Cell Distribution Width (RDW) no longer being reported and Mean Cell Haemoglobin (MCH) being reported.

For additional information on these report changes please feel free to contact our Haematology laboratory on (03) 364 0373

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Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha



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Biochemistry reference intervals will be going live on the 30th of September 2009 at Canterbury Health Laboratories

The analytes that have reference intervals changing at CHL are

Albumin	GGT	Sodium
Alkalkine Phosphatase	Glucose	T3 (Free)
AST	Glucose (fasting)	T4 (Free)
Bilirubin	Iron	Transferrin
Chloride	Phosphate	Triglyceride
Cholesterol	Potassium	TSH
Cholesterol (HDL)	Progesterone	Urate
Cholesterol (LDL calc)	Protein	Urea
Creatinine		

The blood gas electrolytes will also be standardised to the agreed reference intervals.

A number of analytes will also have their test name standardised to the LOINC Result Name. The LOINC information (names etc) can be found at: <http://www.hisac.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagescm/7463> and then clicking on the "New Zealand Pathology Observation Code Sets - Orders and Results Code Sets v4" link.

The SIQAG agreed parameters (Name, Reference Interval, Units, Decimal Places, LOINC code) have all been signed off by the pathologists at each site in order to allow us to standardise and move closer forming a regional repository.

For additional information on these report changes please feel free to contact our Biochemistry laboratory on (03) 364 9583

Further information about these changes can be found at [www.labnet.co.nz/siqag/index.html](http://www.labnet.co.nz/siqag/index.html)

Regards,

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