

Bulletin Technical

CHEMISTRY ASSAY STABILITY CHANGES

January 7, 2008

In the course of installing and validating new chemistry instruments and specimen storage conditions, The Pathology Center has been conducting intensive stability studies on assays performed on these new instruments. During this process we have found issues in our current storage and assay stability criteria and that changes are necessary.

Effective immediately we will only test stored specimens refrigerated for a maximum of four (4) days. We will no longer freeze specimens for retesting or add-ons. Most in-house assays can still be added up to four days after specimen collection. Specimens for general chemistry, such as Comprehensive Panel, Lipid Panel, Liver Panel, TSH, PSA, FSH, LH, are stable for four days. As we continue to investigate the stability of analytes, we will inform you of any changes in specimen stability requirements. Please be aware this change could also affect add-ons for reference laboratory testing if we do not have a frozen specimen available.

As part of our study we have found the specimen stability for drug levels (TDM's) to be longer if the serum is removed from the gel tube (SST) before submitting the sample. We can not perform or add TDM's to specimens that are submitted on gel after 48 hours.

It is our goal to deliver the best quality of care to your patients. Do not hesitate to call our Client Services at 354-4541 or 888-432-8980 with questions about current specimen stability. Dr. Williams can also be reached at the above phone numbers or at tom.williams@nmhs.org with questions concerning testing.