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RE: New Cardiac Biomarker Tests

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On June 23rd, 2010, the Strong Health Lab at SMH will change to new cardiac biomarker tests: Troponin T and NT-proBNP made by Roche Diagnostics. The current Troponin I and BNP tests by Siemens Diagnostics will no longer be available.

Troponin T

The assay has a limit of detection at 0.01 ng/ml, and an imprecision of <10% at 0.03 ng/ml. Troponin results at different levels will be reported as:

<0.03 ng/ml	= Negative
0.03 - 0.09 ng/ml	= Consistent with myocardial injury
>0.09 ng/ml	= Indicative of myocardial injury

The current policy of calling all first positive Troponin T results will continue: >0.09 ng/ml to Emergency Department and >0.03 to Outpatient ordering locations.

NT-proBNP

The assay's age, not gender, related cut-points for identifying acute heart failure are:

≤50 yrs -----	450 pg/ml
50-75 yrs-----	900 pg/ml
>75 yrs -----	1800 pg/ml

There will be an interpretive comment:

Among patients with dyspnea, NT-proBNP is highly sensitive for the detection of acute congestive heart failure. In addition, a NT-proBNP <300 pg/ml effectively rules out acute congestive heart failure, with 99% negative predictive value.

Questions about these two new tests should be directed to Dr. Tai Kwong, Director, Automated Laboratory, at 275-5654 or tai_kwong@urmc.rochester.edu