

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER

**Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**

**TO:** All Clients of Strong Memorial Hospital Clinical Laboratories  
**FROM:** Strong Memorial Hospital Clinical Laboratories  
**RE:** *Changes in Thyroid Function Tests, Tumor Markers and Anemia Markers*  
**DATE:** June 15, 2006

At 12:01 am on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, the SMH Clinical Laboratories will begin moving all Immunoassay tests to new instruments made by Bayer Diagnostics in two phases. The first group of tests to move will be the Thyroid function tests (TSH, T3, T4, Free T4); the Tumor markers (Total PSA, CEA, AFP and CA-125); the Anemia markers (Folate Vitamin B12 and Ferritin) and Cortisol. With this first phase there are no collection tube or sample volume changes. There will, however, be changes in the reference ranges. The current and new ranges are listed in the attached Excel file: Reference Range Changes. The laboratory report will indicate with a comment for 30 days that new reference ranges are in effect.

For the tumor marker assays, the laboratory will perform parallel-testing of the current and new assays for 90 days. During this period, the laboratory reports will present tumor marker results of both the current and the new assays along with their respective reference ranges.

We understand that changes of this magnitude, particularly where the reference ranges are significantly different, are a major inconvenience to our providers. The laboratory will make every effort to make this transition with as little disruption to patient care as possible. A benefit of this undertaking is that Strong Laboratory will join the other major Rochester area hospital laboratories to have Immunoassays standardized on the same methodology and instruments.

The second phase, comprised of the Cardiac markers (ultra Troponin I, BNP, CK-MB); the Fertility Hormones (Estradiol, Progesterone, LH, FSH, Prolactin and Testosterone), Digoxin, intact PTH, and HCG will move shortly after 6/20/06 and a separate announcement will be forthcoming. PLEASE NOTE: WITH THE SECOND PHASE THERE WILL BE A SAMPLE TUBE TYPE CHANGE AS FOLLOWS: BOTH PTH AND BNP WILL CHANGE FROM AN SST TO A LAVENDAR TOP TUBE.

If you have any questions concerning these changes, please contact one of our Client Services representatives at 275-8181.