

**TO:** Clients of URMCLabs

**FROM:** Yan Zhang, PhD  
Associate Director, Automated Laboratory, Strong Memorial Hospital  
Phone: (585) 275-5654  
E-mail: [yan1\\_zhang@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:yan1_zhang@urmc.rochester.edu)

Julietta Fiscella, MD  
Director, Highland Hospital Pathology and Clinical Labs  
Phone: (585) 341-8075  
E-Mail: [Julietta\\_Fiscella@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Julietta_Fiscella@URMC.Rochester.edu)

**SUBJECT:** New Test: **Beta - Hydroxybutyrate (BHB)**

**DATE:** July 12, 2012

On July 17, 2012 the URMCLabs at Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital will begin to offer the Beta-Hydroxybutyrate (BHB) test as a replacement for the Acetest assay, which the laboratory had to discontinue in March 2012 due to the manufacturer's inability to supply the test reagent tablets.

BHB is a more reliable indicator for the diagnosis and monitoring of ketoacidosis than the Acetest nitroprusside test which measures acetoacetate and to a lesser extent acetone, but does not detect BHB. BHB is the main "ketone body" produced in ketosis, accounting for approximately 78%, with acetone (2%) and acetoacetic acid (20%) comprising the remainder.

The test is available on a 24/7 basis and requires serum collected in an SST (serum separator tube). The reference range for the BHB assay is 0.02 – 0.27 mmol/L.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Zhang or Dr. Fiscella via the methods listed above.