MEMORANDUM

TO: CDHA Health Service Directors and Provincial Laboratory Managers

FROM: Dr. Allam Shawwa
Medical Director, Hematology-Coagulation Section

Beverly Twohig
Supervisor, Hematology-Coagulation Section

RE: New Specimen Collection Requirements for Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) Testing

Hematopathology is changing the specimen collection requirements for Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) testing effective November 1st, 2014.

Please be advised that this change requires a 3.2 % sodium citrate tube (plasma) be sent for testing along with the 2 Plain Red Serum Tubes (2 x 6 or 10 ml).

Note: Samples anticoagulated with heparin are not suitable for testing with this assay and must not be used.

Processing instructions for Referring Laboratories:

1. Double spin serum and separate into six (6) 1.0 ml aliquots. Clearly mark that the sample is serum. Send frozen on dry ice. Serum must be platelet poor.

2. Double spin plasma and separate into two (2) 1.0 ml aliquots. Clearly mark that the sample is plasma. Send frozen on dry ice. Plasma must be platelet poor.

3. Send QE Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia Questionnaire Form along with samples.

Please contact the Coagulation Laboratory (902-473-4059) if you have any questions regarding this matter.