



Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Capital Health Inpatient, Emergency and Outpatient clinics, Physicians, Health Service Managers, Nurse Practitioners

From: Dr. Manal Elnenaei, Dr. Bassam Nassar, Dr. Amy Lou, Ms Cindy Andrews
Division of Clinical Chemistry

Date: 12th January 2015

Subject: **Implementing the change in ordering of Electrolyte Panels**

In a previous memo dated 3rd September 2014 we indicated that there will be a change to the standard Electrolyte Panel to include Sodium and Potassium only. Total CO₂ and Chloride, if clinically required, must be requested separately as detailed in the earlier memo. To access that memo please use the following link and search for: '*Change in ordering of Electrolyte Panels to promote appropriate utilization*'
<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/pathology-laboratory-medicine/documents>

The current Electrolyte Panels within all CDHA Emergency Departments (ER) will not be affected by this change and will continue to trigger testing of Sodium, Potassium, Chloride and Bicarbonate. If the in-patient requisition form is used in ER, the requestor must ensure that Total CO₂ and/or Chloride are requested.

We would like to confirm that this change will be effective on February 2, 2015 and that add-on requests for Total CO₂ will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Dr. Elnenaei at 902-473-5194, Dr Lou at 902-473-1528 or Dr. Nassar at 902-473-2225

CC. Dr. Godfrey Heathcote, Ms. Shauna Thompson, Ms Sandy Schlay, Ms Gail MacLennan