

LABORATORY SERVICES MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2008

TO: SFH and SFS Physicians

FROM: Virginia Burdine, M.D., Ph.D.
SFH Hematology/Coagulation Laboratory Medical Director

SUBJECT: Temporary Discontinuation of Heparin-Absorbed PTT Testing

Effective immediately, SFH Coagulation Laboratory will temporarily discontinue heparin-absorbed PTT testing. It has come to our attention that a manufacturing change in the Heparin-absorbing reagent has made this reagent unreliable with our current PTT testing methodology. We are evaluating an alternative reagent (Hepzyme) and hope to have this validated and available for clinical use in approximately one week.

During this interim period, we will substitute Heparinase Thromboelastograph (TEG) testing as a substitute for Heparin-absorbed PTTs. The heparinase thromboelastograph is most commonly used to evaluate a patient's underlying coagulation status while on cardiac bypass. It will evaluate clotting factors as well as platelet function, fibrin activity, and clot stability. A pathologist will be on call to provide interpretive assistance as needed, until the Hepzyme PTT is available. Patients will be credited for any difference in cost between the two tests.

Any questions may be directed to Virginia Burdine, M.D. at 494-1420.