LABORATORY ALLIANCE of Central New York, LLC

Change in Methodology: Erythropoietin

Erythropoietin is the principal factor regulating red blood cell production (erythropoiesis) in mammals.

- The over-expression of EPO may be associated with certain pathophysiological conditions (e.g., secondary polycythemia) or as an adaptive response associated with conditions that produce tissue hypoxia (e.g., living at high altitude, COPD, sleep apnea or high oxygen affinity hemoglobinopathy, etc.).
- Deficient EPO production is found in conjunction with certain forms of anemias.
- Recombinant human EPO (rhEPO) is used as treatment to stimulate red cell production mainly in chronic renal failure and anemia caused by chemotherapy and also the AIDS drug zidovudine.[1]

We were recently informed by our vendor for erythropoietin reagent that they were no longer able to support the assay that we have used for many years. However, Laboratory Alliance is pleased to announce that we will be able to continue to offer testing for erythropoietin by transitioning to a different instrument platform. Effective **November 12, 2013**, erythropoietin will be performed on the Beckman Coulter DXI 600. Like the previous assay, the new EPO assay recognizes both endogenous and recombinant EPO. Although serum remains the specimen of choice, the new assay will also accept heparinized plasma for analysis. Testing will be performed at our Operations Center on Mondays and Thursdays.

It is important to note that, while the results generated from the new assay are slightly lower than from the previous assay, the reference range used will also be lower. The new reference range is 2.6 – 18.5 mIU/mL. For a period of 6 months, results will be appended with a comment noting that a new method and reference range went into effective November 12, 2013. Specific details for the new assay are as follows:

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Order code:	EPO
Method:	Chemiluminescent immunoassay
Specimen Requirements:	One gold (SST) tube 1.0 mL serum, 0.5 mL minimum. Heparinized plasma is also acceptable.
Unacceptable:	Avoid hemolysis.
Stability:	Refrigerated: 7 days
Storage and Transport:	Refrigerated
Schedule of Testing:	Monday and Thursday
Billing Code:	1010070
CPT Code:	82668

Questions regarding these tests may be directed to Cheryl Haskins, MS, MT(ASCP)SC, Manager of Chemistry and Referral Testing, at 315-410-7014 or cherylhaskins@lacny.com.

References:

1. Procrit Product Insert, June 1994. Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA; Version 638-10-979-3.

10/14/13, cmh