



TO: Crouse Medical Staff/Providers and Nursing Units
FROM: Rachel C. Elder, MD
Director of Laboratories, Crouse Hospital
DATE: June 29, 2017
RE: Transition from BNP to NT-proBNP

We are transitioning the BNP test to NT-proBNP as our primary natriuretic peptide test. The clinical utility of the natriuretic peptides BNP and NT-proBNP are similar; however, NT-proBNP testing offers several advantages over BNP testing.

NT-proBNP has been reported to be superior to BNP for patients taking Entresto[®] and is also more stable than BNP in patient samples. This allows for adding NT-proBNP testing onto previously collected samples. The transition will eliminate redundancy and add operational efficiencies to our laboratory staff.

NT-proBNP is available 24/7 with a stat turn-around time (TAT) under 1 hour from receipt in the lab. The specimen type is serum, collected in a gold top tube. Lithium heparin plasma is also acceptable. Other chemistry tests can be performed from the same tube, eliminating the need for a unique tube for the natriuretic peptide testing as is the case for BNP (lavender top tube).

As of July 13, BNP will no longer be orderable through Soarian. If needed, BNP may be ordered on a downtime requisition and will be available at an alternate Laboratory Alliance site with stat TAT under 3 hours.

	BNP	NT-proBNP
Order code:	BNP	PROBNP
Specimen Requirements:	One full lavender (EDTA) tube. Partially filled tubes are not acceptable.	One gold (SST) or light green (LiHep) tube preferred.
Stability:	Ambient or Refrigerated: 7 hours	After separation from cells: Ambient or Refrigerated: 3 days
Billing Code:	1010009	1010519
CPT Code:	83880	83880
Reference (normal) Range:	0 - 100 pg/mL	0 – 74 y: 125 pg/mL ≥ 75 y: 450 pg/mL

For questions about BNP or NT-proBNP testing, please contact Dr. Elder at 315-470-7396 or Pam Swierczek, Chemistry Supervisor, at 315-470-7439.

RCE/cmh

6/21/17