



TO: St. Joseph's Hospital Healthcare Providers and Nursing Staff

FROM: Brando Cobanov, MD
Laboratory Medical Director, SJH RRL

DATE: July 10, 2017

RE: Transition from BNP to NT-proBNP

Although the clinical utility of the natriuretic peptides BNP and NT-proBNP is similar, Laboratory Alliance of Central New York's Rapid Response Laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital has offered both BNP and NT-proBNP since October 2016. To eliminate redundancy in our natriuretic peptide test menu, we plan to transition to NT-proBNP as our primary natriuretic peptide test. NT-proBNP has some advantages over BNP. It is more stable than BNP due to a longer half-life. It is more accurate than BNP in detecting early or mild heart failure. And for patients taking Entresto[®], use of NT-proBNP is preferred over BNP since Entresto affects the clearance of BNP. In addition, the transition will offer operational efficiencies to our laboratory staff.

NT-proBNP is performed on the Siemens Vista, our primary chemistry analyzer. The test is available 24/7 and as a stat test with turn-around time (TAT) less than 1 hour from receipt in the lab. The specimen type is serum or lithium heparin plasma. 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.

As of July 24, 2017, BNP will no longer be available to be ordered in Epic. If needed, it may be ordered on a downtime requisition. BNP testing will be forwarded to an alternate Laboratory Alliance site for analysis with stat TAT less than 3 hours.

For questions about natriuretic peptides, please contact Dr. Cobanov at 315-448-5416. For questions about BNP or NT-proBNP testing, please contact Ashley Barzee at 315-448-5723.