




Hagerstown Medical Laboratory

Date: December 10, 2010

To: Emergency Department Providers and Providers ordering from the Emergency Department

From: John G. Newby, M.D. 
Director of Laboratories

Subject: New Whole Blood Testing for Troponin and HCG at Meritus ED Stat Lab

With the opening of the Emergency Department at Meritus Medical Center on December 11th, in order to improve turnaround times, whole blood testing for Troponin and HCG will be implemented in the new Stat Lab at Meritus for Emergency Department patients only.

New order codes apply: **CARDW** for the Troponin and **QTCGW** for the HCG whole blood test. Our staff will be working with the Emergency Department order sets over the coming days to make appropriate conversions.

The new whole blood Troponin (Stratus method) will have a positive threshold of 0.6 ng/mL as opposed to the serum/plasma threshold of 0.8 ng/mL (interpretations will be adjusted accordingly).

The whole blood HCG has a reportable range up to 1250 mIU/mL and will be reported as > 1250 mIU/mL above that value. If an actual value above that limit is needed, the lab will need to be notified by phone to add additional testing.

If there are any questions or need for further information about these changes, please contact me at 301-665-4900 or 1-800-428-2105.