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28 December 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: ED, Cardiology, Nursing Administration, Chief Medical Officer
FR: John G. Newby, M.D.
Director of Laboratories 
RE: Whole Blood Troponin from the Emergency Department

The Laboratory has recently seen several instances of false positive Troponin results from the ED performed in the Emergency Department Stat Laboratory (EDSL) on whole blood. We have just been informed by the instrument manufacturer, Siemens, that there is a *"low frequency of non-repeatable falsely elevated CTNI [whole blood Troponin] results without an associated error message."*

In response to these events, the Laboratory had already put in place a policy of confirming positive whole blood Troponin results in the Main Laboratory on plasma. Siemens recommends retesting Troponin values greater than 0.07 ng/ml. We have already instituted this policy. Until the issue has been satisfactorily resolved, whole blood Troponin results from the ED above 0.07 ng/ml will be issued as preliminary and will be accompanied by a message advising the treating physician that the result is being confirmed. If there is discordance, the plasma result from the Main Laboratory should be used for further clinical intervention.

Please note that there are no falsely depressed Troponin results reported, therefore, a negative result may be reliably used. As always your clinical judgment should guide therapy.