



Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Change in Qualitative Serum Ketone Testing

September 8, 2017

As of September 12, 2017, St. Paul's Hospital will no longer be offering a qualitative serum ketone test. Quantitative beta hydroxybutyrate testing will remain available.

Currently, all serum ketone orders at St. Paul's Hospital are reflexed to also include a test for beta hydroxybutyrate, which is the major ketone produced in diabetic ketoacidosis. After consultation with the clinical services which most often use these tests, it is agreed that the qualitative serum ketone test, which only detects the ketone acetoacetate, does not add clinical value when combined with the beta hydroxybutyrate test.

Orders for serum ketones placed at St Paul's Hospital after September 11, 2017 will be reflexed to beta hydroxybutyrate and the serum ketone test will not be performed. The serum ketone order code will ultimately be retired.

The core laboratory at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital will continue to offer the serum ketone test. No changes to the available orders or results are being made. Beta hydroxybutyrate is available to clinicians at MSJ and samples are sent to SPH for analysis.

Questions and comments regarding this change are welcome and should be directed to Dr. Janet Simons at 604-806-8193.



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