

Hemoglobin Electrophoresis Studies

New Recommendations



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Beginning February 12, 2018, the Chemistry laboratory will no longer perform repeat hemoglobin electrophoresis studies on patients who have a prior result and do not require monitoring of hemoglobin fractions for therapeutic purposes. This practice follows the recommendations of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation's Choosing Wisely campaign published on October 19, 2017: "Do not repeat hemoglobin electrophoresis (or equivalent) in patients who have a prior result and who do not require therapeutic intervention or monitoring of hemoglobin variant levels."¹

If an order for a Hemoglobin/Thalassemia Evaluation (Test Code: HBEVAL, PRISM Code: LAB2059) is received on a patient that has had this evaluation in the past, the order will be canceled with the following comment: "Order canceled. Patient previously tested on (test date) with prior results of (Hemoglobin A, F, A2, S or another hemoglobin variant fraction % and any interpretive comments)." For patients who require monitoring of hemoglobin fractions for therapeutic purposes, such as sickle cell disease, order Sickling Hemoglobin Therapeutic Monitoring (Test Code: HGMON, PRISM Code: LAB4062).

If you have any questions concerning these changes please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn (clayton.wilburn@uvmhealth.org) in the Laboratory.

REFERENCES:

Choosing Wisely- American Society for Clinical Pathology. Twenty Things Physicians and Patients Should Question. <http://www.choosingwisely.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ASCP-Choosing-Wisely-List.pdf>. Accessed on 01/22/2018.

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