



Excellence in Pathology Services

Informational Update

From Your Laboratory Service Provider, PathGroup Labs

Testing Platform Change for Total Thyroxine (T4)

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This is an informational memo and no client action is required.

PathGroup Labs has been informed by Beckman Coulter, our supplier of Total T4 reagents, that there is a possibility of false low bias on Total T4 levels in pregnant women leading to the potential of missing a diagnosis of hyperthyroidism if Total T4 is the only ordered analyte.

PathGroup Labs has performed a review of the past six (6) months of Total T4 testing and have found no cases where by we are concerned about this situation. Most clinicians order a battery of thyroid testing, and hyperthyroidism could be excluded or confirmed by other testing (Total T3, TSH). ACOG (American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) recommends TSH testing to be the initial screening for evaluating symptomatic pregnant patients for thyroid disease.

PathGroup Labs will change our Total T4 testing platform on Monday April 18th, 2011. Test ordering and reference ranges will remain the same.

Ordering:

Test:	Test Name:	CPT:	LOINC:
T4	Thyroxine (Total)	84436	3026-2

New Test:	Previous Test:
Methodology: EIA	Methodology: Chemiluminescent
Female: 4.7 – 16.1	Female: 4.7 – 16.1
Male: 4.6 – 11.1	Male: 4.6 – 11.1
Units: ug/dL	Units: ug/dL

Specimen Collection and Storage:

- 1) Collect specimen in a serum separator tube.
 - a) Allow serum tube to clot for 30 minutes.
 - b) Spin serum separator tube 10-15 minutes @ 3500 rpm.
- 2) Serum specimens are stable refrigerated for 7 days.

Test Performed:

Sunday- Saturday

Turnaround time:

24 hours

References:

American Academy of Family Physicians(AAFP); *Practice Guidelines ACOG Practice: Bulletin on Thyroid Disease in Pregnancy;* (2002) May 15.

For further questions, please contact Client Services at 615-562-9300 or 1-888-474-5227.

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