



**WHOLE BLOOD ELECTROLYTE TESTS ADDED TO CARDIOTHORACIC POST-OP ORDER SET**

Effective June 21, 2005 at 1:00 PM, the laboratory tests in the post-op order set for cardiothoracic surgery patients have been revised to incorporate testing for Whole Blood Electrolytes (WB LYLES). WB LYLES includes whole blood sodium, potassium, chloride, and bicarbonate (WB NA, WB K, WB CL, WB HCO3). These four tests will replace the four serum electrolyte tests contained in the Chem 7. The three remaining tests in the Chem 7 (BUN, creatinine, glucose) are currently not available as whole blood tests and the laboratory will continue to perform these tests on a serum specimen.

A major advantage of this change is that whole blood electrolyte tests can be performed more quickly (10 minute turnaround time) than serum electrolyte tests because they are performed directly on a whole blood specimen, eliminating the time required for specimen clotting and centrifugation.

**WB LYLES will require an additional GREEN-TOP (heparin) tube of blood.** Please pay attention to the computer labels that print for the blood tubes. A separate label will be printed with the words "WB LYLES" and "GREEN" printed on the label. A sample label appears below:



WB LYLES may also be ordered outside of the post-op CT order set. This is a good way to order electrolytes whenever these tests are needed urgently (e.g., Code 99), particularly if an entire Chem 7 is not required. [If WB LYLES are ordered and the other 3 tests in the Chem 7 are also needed, they must be ordered individually; do not order WB LYLES plus an entire Chem 7 - this is wasteful and will delay TAT.]

Questions about whole blood electrolytes may be directed to Leslie Albrecht, Technical Specialist (x7476) or Dr. Salvador Sena (x7622) in the Clinical Chemistry section of the Laboratory.