

## New Tests Offered

### **Xa Assay Is Available For Monitoring Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) Therapy**

The Danbury Hospital Laboratory announces the availability of the Xa Assay, a quantitative assay used for the monitoring of Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) and Unfractionated Heparin (UFH) therapy. The test is orderable 24/7 using the mnemonics **Xa LMWH** or **Xa UFH**. Testing will be performed on the day and evening shifts.

#### **SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS – 1 full Blue Stoppered Tube**

Collect specimens for plasma based coagulation testing by venipuncture using a blood collection system that collects the specimen directly into an evacuated tube containing 3.2 % buffered sodium citrate (light blue stoppered tube). Specimen collection should take place approximately 4 hours post LMWH administration.

Fill the tube completely to ensure the maintenance of a blood to anticoagulant ratio of 9:1. Gently invert the tube several times to completely mix the sample. The following specimen issues are *causes for specimen rejection*:

- Hemolysis
- Specimen collected in the wrong anticoagulant (wrong tube)
- Under or over-filled tubes
- Collection of blood specimen through lines.

Samples should be stored at room temperature and must be delivered to the laboratory within 1 hour of collection. **Do not refrigerate or centrifuge samples.**

**EXPECTED VALUES:** Target therapeutic mean for **once daily** administration:

<b>Enaxoparin</b> (Lovenox):	>1.0 IU/mL	<b>Nadroparin</b>	1.3 IU/mL
<b>Tinzaparin</b> (Novo, Logiparin)	0.85 IU/mL	<b>Dalteparin</b> (Fragmin)	1.05 IU/mL

**Twice daily** administration: **Enaxoparin** or **nadroparin**, therapeutic range: 0.6-1.0 IU/mL

Please refer questions to Dr. Leonel Edwards at 203-739-7527.

## **Rapid Whole Blood Creatinine and Whole Blood Glucose**

The Danbury Hospital Laboratory announces the availability of two new tests – **Whole Blood Creatinine** and **Whole Blood Glucose**. These tests are performed on heparinized whole blood using electrochemical biosensor technology on our recently acquired Radiometer ABL837 Blood Gas/Electrolyte/Metabolite analyzers. They may be ordered individually as **WB CREAT** and **WB GLUCOSE** or as part of a new “**WB STAT 6 PANEL**” that includes WB LYTES, WB CREAT and WB GLUCOSE. The main advantage of these tests is their rapid turnaround time (<10-15 min from time of sample receipt in laboratory) since they can be performed directly on a whole blood sample while avoiding the clotting and centrifugation steps required for the corresponding serum tests. These tests are ideal for clinical situations where rapid results are needed, e.g., stroke, STEMI and trauma alerts, Code 99, pre-cardiac catheterization and pre-administration of radiographic contrast agents.

Sample requirements are the same as for whole blood electrolytes – heparinized whole blood collected in a green-stoppered Vacutainer<sup>®</sup> tube. Whole blood creatinine and glucose values agree very closely with serum values and reference ranges are the same as for the serum tests. Questions? Contact Leslie Albrecht (7476) or Dr. Sal Sena (7622)

### **Reminder Regarding Collection Containers/Order of Draw:**

Specimens collected for analysis at the Danbury Hospital Laboratory should be collected in plastic specimen containers. Please use the correct collection container for each test request and *observe the appropriate order of draw: Light blue, red, SST, Green, Pink or lavender and gray. The correct order of draw prevents specimen contamination and the possibility of false tests results.*

### **Communication of Results for Test that are Ordered STAT:**

Results for all tests ordered STAT will be called to the ordering provider regardless of the time of day at which the tests are completed.

### **Transport of samples for urine cultures and/or urinalysis**

Unless a urine specimen can reach the lab within 2 hours of collection, or be refrigerated for 2-8 hours, use of a preservative such as the Boritex collection system is essential to maintain sample integrity. The Boritex collection container is sufficient for both culture and urinalysis. A clean catch sample should be collected and transferred to the Boritex container. Urine should be added to the fill line. The sample should then be capped and mixed well until the preservative tablet in the bottom of the container dissolves. Once in the Boritex container, the sample is stable at room temperature for up to 48 hours. Contact Laboratory Customer Service at 203-739-7306 to obtain the Boritex collection system to use with urine specimens to be submitted to the Danbury Hospital Laboratory.