

VerifyNow P2Y12: A New Laboratory Test for Determining Patient Response to Plavix[®] and Effient[®]

Nancy Critelli MT (ASCP)

The Danbury Hospital Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is pleased to announce the availability of the VerifyNow P2Y12 Assay. This assay is a simple, whole blood test for the evaluation of platelet function in patients who are administered P2Y12 inhibitors, such as Plavix[®] (clopidogrel) and Effient[®] (prasugrel). This test could benefit patients undergoing cardiac surgery, percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) and those on daily Plavix or Effient therapy to confirm protection.

Surgical Screen – Patients administered Plavix or Effient are at risk of increased bleeding during surgery. It is recommended that these patients who are undergoing surgery or invasive procedures be tested. Test results may aid in decisions to initiate or delay surgery, and to make preparations for additional blood product use if surgery cannot be postponed.

Therapeutic Response – Variability in patient response to anti-platelet drugs is common. Studies show that up to 30% of patients taking P2Y12 inhibitors have low levels of platelet inhibition. It is recommended that patients on Plavix or Effient be tested to determine if the drug has produced the expected antiplatelet effect.

Results from the VerifyNow P2Y12 Assay are reported in P2Y12 Reaction Units (PRU) and Percent Inhibition. Results could be affected by the following:

- Low hematocrit (<33%) values or low platelet count (<119).
- GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors – ReoPro[®], Aggrastat[®], and Integrilin[®]: patients who have been administered Aggrastat or Integrilin within two days or ReoPro within two weeks should not be tested.

This test requires a 2mL Greiner tube and can only be drawn at the Test Center or as an inpatient order. Ordering mnemonic is **P2Y12 Platelet Function**.

Please refer any questions to Nancy Critelli at 203-739-7424 or Dr. Leonel Edwards at 203-739-7527.

Reference: Plavix Resistance: Hospital Laboratory Documentation for the Verify Now. Accumetrix, Inc. 2007 148001 B.

Mayo Reference Laboratory is in Use

Danbury Hospital Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine announces a change in the reference laboratory used to provide test results for esoteric testing not performed at the DH laboratory site. This testing will be performed at the Mayo Reference laboratory. Changes in specimen requirements for some tests can be found in the Technically Speaking issue, Vol 3, No 8 or use the link to access www.mayomedcallaboratories.com for complete information regarding specimen requirements.

Pap Test Change

Effective December 24, 2009, the Cytology section of the laboratory will discontinue the use of the SurePath technology. The section will continue to utilize the Thinprep Pap system to process specimens. Sandra Smith, Client Services/Marketing Coordinator, will visit offices in the next few weeks to collect unused Surepath supplies and replace them with Thinprep kits. Questions may be directed to Dr. Mary Chacho, Medical Director of Cytology, at 203-739-7082 or Kathleen Johnson-McDonough, Technical Specialist of Cytology, at 203-739-7846.

Reminders:

- **NPI Numbers:** for doctors affiliated with Danbury Hospital, it is unnecessary to put the NPI number on a patient's requisition when ordering testing. The NPI number is on file with the hospital.
- **Specimen requirements:** For the most up to date information, consult LifePoint.
- **Phlebotomy:** lavender stoppered tubes should be inverted gently 10 times to thoroughly mix the specimen with the anticoagulant. Failure to do this may result in platelet clumping and false thrombocytopenia.
- Please observe correct **Order of Draw** when collecting blood specimens: blood cultures, blue stoppered tube, red stoppered tube, SST (gold stoppered tube), green stoppered tube, lavender or pink stoppered tube.
- **Flow Cytometry:** samples for Flow Cytometry must be collected prior to 2:30 PM on Friday. No specimens for Flow Cytometry testing should be collected on Saturday.

APTIMA Genprobe System Replaces PACE Genprobe System

Laura Ross, MS, MT (ASCP)

The Microbiology section of the Danbury Hospital Laboratory is pleased to announce the conversion from the PACE Genprobe system to the APTIMA Genprobe system for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* by amplified DNA technology.

- The change in methodology will improve detection of these pathogens. In addition to cervical and urethral swab samples, testing can also be performed on urine and ThinPrep transport media. The implementation date for APTIMA is December 28, 2009. Please note that if you still have PACE Genprobe collection kits, we can accept those for testing in the APTIMA system until current supplies are depleted.
- APTIMA collection kits and instructions are now available from the Microbiology section at 203-739-7305 or by calling Laboratory Client Service-Marketing Coordinator Sandra Smith at 203-739-7800.
- Please contact the Microbiology section at 203-739-7305 or Dr. Jessica Dodge, Medical Director of Microbiology, at 203-739-7034 with any questions or concerns.