



August 22, 2014

CLINICAL PRACTICE CHANGE

APTT REFERENCE RANGE CHANGE

UNFRACTIONATED HEPARIN THERAPEUTIC RANGE

APPROPRIATE USE OF APTT TEST

Effective date: **Wednesday, August 27, 2014**

Due to a reagent lot change, the reference range for aPTT will change to 26 – 38 seconds.

The change will be effective Wednesday, August 27, 2014, and reflected in the report.

Unfractionated heparin therapeutic range remains the same.

The utilization of aPTT test has been identified as in need of improvement within the "Choosing Wisely" initiative.

APTT is most useful for monitoring of unfractionated heparin anticoagulation when the use of other anticoagulants is not possible. It is important to remember that **a prolonged aPTT is not a good predictor of bleeding risk**, and may unnecessarily delay procedures or surgery.

"Baseline" and/or pre-procedure aPTT requests are **not advised** in patients without active bleeding or an abnormal bleeding history. Patients with a history of a bleeding disorder should be referred for hemostasis investigation.

In summary, the aPTT provides no clinical advantage outside the two following scenarios:

- a) heparin monitoring
- b) within the context of a comprehensive hemostasis investigation

Questions and concerns may be directed to:

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