



LABORATORY COMMUNICATION

March 10, 2009

ALCOHOL & GLYCOL ANALYSES

Effective Monday, February 23rd Westman Regional Laboratory (WRL) will be forwarding all specimens with requests for methanol, isopropanol or ethylene glycol to the main DSM toxicology laboratory at St. Boniface General Hospital (SBGH) in Winnipeg. With the low numbers of requests for these tests and the difficulty in maintaining expertise and the specialized equipment necessary, the best way to ensure accurate and timely results is to provide the test from a single location for the entire province.

Routine specimens from rural sites may be sent to WRL where they will be forwarded to SBGH on the next regular working day. For Stat specimens, contact the Clinical Chemist on call at Pager # 1-204-931-5253. Stat specimens must be transported directly to SBGH, not to WRL.

The criteria for ordering are:

- History of ingestion or potential ingestion of a toxic alcohol (methanol or isopropanol) or glycol, **OR**
- Presence of an unexplained anion gap metabolic acidosis (absence of lactate, salicylate or beta-hydroxy-butyrate to explain the acidosis) **OR**
- Presence of an increased osmolal gap

Alcohol screen includes methanol, ethanol, isopropanol and acetone.
Glycol screen includes ethylene glycol and propylene glycol.

Please see the attached Referral Procedure for instructions on shipping to the SBGH site. These instructions are particularly important for off-hours shipping if the specimen is to get to the lab in a timely way.

Specimen collection requirements and downloadable requisition forms can be found in the DSM Lab Information Manual at: <http://apps.sbggh.mb.ca/labmanualviewer/index.do>

Please contact one of the undersigned if there are questions.

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