

TEST UPDATE

Hand Deliver Specimens for Platelet Function Testing

UVMMMC

Effective April 17, 2025, the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Laboratory requests that **all platelet function testing be hand delivered to the laboratory. Please avoid transport via the pneumatic tube system for platelet function testing** including:

- Platelet Function Analysis (PFA1) – Epic Code LAB318
- Thrombelastography (TEG) – Epic Code LAB3560
- Platelet Mapping for Plavix (PMADP) – Epic Code LAB3324
- Platelet Mapping for Aspirin (PMAA) – Epic Code LAB3323
- Platelet Mapping for Aspirin & Plavix (PMADPA) – Epic Code LAB3322

The specimen label for these tests will now indicate hand delivery is required by adding *****WALK***** as a reminder.

Please take the specimen to the nursing station where a Service Task will be created to notify Transport Services to arrange for the specimen(s) to be hand delivered to the laboratory. **For most assay systems, platelet function testing must be completed within 2 hours from the time of collection, so timely transport to the laboratory is essential.**

The purpose of this change is to minimize platelet activation, which may occur during transport via the pneumatic tube system. While the pneumatic tube system is a convenient and efficient method for transport, the vibrational forces create foaming of the specimen and platelet activation, both of which may impact functional testing.

By implementing hand delivery, we expect to see a reduction in the number of platelet function tests demonstrating evidence of platelet activation such as platelet clumping (in the PFA-100) and growing MA (in the platelet mapping), both of which currently prompt a request for a redraw. If a *****WALK***** specimen is delivered via the pneumatic tube, the laboratory will still perform testing as we are unable to reliably detect the method of specimen transport.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following:

- • Kristin E. Lundy, MHA, CLS, Coagulation Technical Specialist
- • Dr. Andy Goodwin, Coagulation Medical Director
- • Dr. Marian Rollins-Raval, Division Chief for Hematopathology and Coagulation

References:

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2. Garrett R Mullins, James H Harrison, David E Bruns. Smartphones Can Monitor Medical Center Pneumatic Tube Systems. *Clinical Chemistry*. 2016; 62(6):891–893.
3. Dyszkiewicz-Korpanty A, et al. The effect of a pneumatic tube transport system on PFA-100™ closure time and whole blood platelet aggregation. *JTH*. 2004;2(2):354-356.
4. Wallin O, et al. Preanalytical effects of pneumatic tube transport on routine haematology, coagulation parameters, platelet function and global coagulation. *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine*. 2008;46(10):1443-1449.

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