



PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL
威爾斯親王醫院

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From: Prof CWK Lam
Hon Chief of Service
Department of Chemical Pathology

To: All COSs,
All DOMs and Ward Managers,
All Doctors, NTEC

Tel/Fax No: 2632-3338 / 2636-5090

Date: 19 April 2004

**Quantitative Whole Blood Beta-Hydroxybutyrate Assay Service
Implementation Date: 10 May 2004**

Please be informed that with effect from Monday, 10 May 2004, our department will introduce a new quantitative whole blood beta-hydroxybutyrate (BOHB) assay service at PWH.

This test is intended for laboratory assessment of the ketotic state of patients suspected to have diabetic ketoacidosis, alcohol ketoacidosis, methanol poisoning, or other causes of unexplained high anion-gap acidosis. However, at this stage the reagent manufacturer does not recommend the test to be used on neonates, e.g. for the investigation of suspected fatty acid oxidation defect, as the assay has not been evaluated for neonatal samples.

Please book the test by phoning our Urgent Chemical Pathology Laboratory at 2632-3353.

Each request for BOHB will require at least 2-mL blood collected into a 3-mL Purple Top EDTA blood tube, and the blood sample must be sent in ice and reach our department within 30 minutes after collection. The Laboratory Request System (LRS) test code is BOHB. We shall have to reject the sample if there is no information on the collection time, or if the sample reaches our laboratory later than 30 minutes after collection.

If there are any enquiries on further details of the BOHB assay, please contact our Duty Biochemist at 2632-2685 or 2632-2331, or page through the PWH Operator at 2632-2211.

Thank you for your kind attention.

You are most welcome to use our new service.

Yours sincerely,

Prof CWK Lam

Copy to:
Dr Michael WM Suen
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Ms Candy Cheung
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CWKL/MHMC/LKL