DATE: April 4, 2007

TO: Housestaff Physicians, Faculty, and Nursing Personnel
    Primary Care Network Physicians and Nurse

FROM: Denis M. Dwyre, MD
    Director, Clinical Hematology
    Philip Lee, Supervisor, Hematology/ Hemostasis

Re: Discontinuation of Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Test

Effective April 16, 2007 The Clinical Laboratory will no longer offer the Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) test.

Alternatively, C-Reactive Protein Testing (CRP) may be ordered as an alternative to ESR. CRP testing may be useful in measuring acute nonspecific response to tissue injury or inflammation or chronic inflammation. Correlations have been demonstrated for postoperative recovery, infectious disease, and clinical evaluation of stress, trauma, infection, inflammation and surgery. This test is NOT for cardiovascular risk evaluation! The CRP test for cardiovascular risk evaluation is a highly sensitive CRP test and must be ordered separately.

Specimen Requirement:

Collect one green PST (lithium plasma separator tube).
Also acceptable: SST.
Pediatric collection: 1 full PST microtainer.

If you have any question or need further information, please call the Hematology and Hemostasis Laboratory supervisor, Philip Lee at (916) 734-0375.

APPROVED BY: Ralph Green, M.D.
Director and Chair, Interim Director of Clinical Pathology
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Cc: Bettye Andreos
    Carol Robinson, RN
    Richard Pollard, MD
    Alan Siefkin, MD
    Wanda Wenman, MD
    Phillip Raimondi, MD
    Ralph Green, MD
    Robert Taylor
    Darrell O’Sullivan