NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SERVICE

DATE: April 21, 2009
TO: Housestaff and PCN Physicians, Faculty, and Nursing Personnel
FROM: Lydia P. Howell, MD, John Bishop, MD
RE: HCV Viral Load Testing

Effective April 1, 2009 HCV viral load quantitative testing will be performed by real-time PCR using the Roche COBAS AmpliPrep / COBAS TaqMan HCV test. This replaces our current viral load testing performed by branched chain DNA (bDNA). The COBAS TaqMan test is an DFA-approved assay with improved sensitivity and dynamic range. The reportable range for this assay is from 43 to 69,000,000 IU/mL.

Sample Requirement: One full whole blood 4 mL EDTA (purple top) tube or One full PPT tube

Lab sample Processing: Centrifuge, aliquot plasma and freeze within 6 hours of Collection. Do NOT freeze primary collection tube (EDTA or PPT tube) 1.1 mL frozen plasma minimum.

Reference Interval: <43 IU/mL (Below the limit of detection of the assay) 43 – 69,000,000 IU/mL >69,000,000 IU/mL (above the upper range of the assay)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sandra Hatcher at (916) 734-1673 or the molecular staff at (916) 734-1670.

APPROVED BY: Lydia P. Howell, MD Professor & Acting Chair Professor of Pathology Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

cc: Bettye Andreos Carol Robinson, RN Allan Siefkin, M.D. Darrell O’Sullivan Stuart Cohen, M.D.