



MEMORANDUM

To: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

From: William Fitter, MD, Chief of Clinical Chemistry
Mary Pille, BS MT (ASCP) SBB, Section Manager of Immunology and Chemistry

Date: May 29, 2012

Subject: PSA Reference Range change

Until recently, Regional Medical Laboratory (RML) has used the PSA reference range of 0.0-2.5 ng/ml which was recommended by the urological oncology specialist community. While there is continued controversy over what is considered to be a “normal” PSA, the consensus among most physicians is that a PSA below 4.0 ng/ml is normal and most laboratories have adopted 4.0ng/ml as the upper limit of normal range.

As of April 30th 2012, RML has updated our current PSA reference range to raise the upper limit of PSA to 4.0 ng/ml in an effort to be in line with other national laboratories.

RML has **not** changed the methodology used to perform PSA testing. Physicians may choose to continue tracking or evaluating their patients based on the previous range of 0.0 to 2.5 ng/ml. It is also important to note various factors, such as inflammation (e.g. prostatitis,) can cause PSA levels to fluctuate and one abnormal PSA test result does **not** indicate the need for a prostate biopsy. In general the higher a PSA level is the more likely that cancer is present. Irrespective of the PSA level, rapid interval increases in PSA concentration are of particular significance and may warrant further clinical evaluation.

For questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr Fitter or Mary Pille at 918-774-2553, 1-800-722-8077 or email at wfitter@sjmc.org.