

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

**FROM:** William Fitter, MD  
Mary Pille MT (ASCP) SBB, Manager of Chemistry Department

**DATE:** January 12, 2015

**SUBJECT: N-Acetyl Cysteine (NAC) Interference**

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Beckman Coulter sent out an Urgent Information Notice in December 2014. In this notice, Regional Medical Laboratory was informed of N-acetyl cysteine (NAC) interference for some of the Beckman Coulter's chemistry assays. NAC, when administered in therapeutic concentrations for the treatment of acetaminophen overdose, has been determined to interfere with the following assays: cholesterol, uric acid, lactate, and lipase. This interference may lead to falsely decreased results. If testing for those assays is required, patient samples should be collected prior to administering NAC or after the drug has cleared the patient's system.

An interpretive statement will be attached to acetaminophen orders, informing clinician of effects of NAC when given as treatment for acetaminophen overdose.

The interpretive comment will state:

*Patients treated with N-acetyl cysteine (NAC) for an acetaminophen overdose may generate a false low result for the following analytes: cholesterol, uric acid, lactate, and lipase.*

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. William Fitter at 918-744-2555, ext 15525, [wfitter@sjmc.org](mailto:wfitter@sjmc.org), or Mary Pille at 918-744-2555, ext 15788, [Mary.Pille@sjmc.org](mailto:Mary.Pille@sjmc.org).