

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Medical Laboratory Clients
FROM: William Fitter, MD, Chief of Clinical Chemistry
 Mary Pille, BS MT (ASCP) SBB, Section Manager of Chemistry and LCMS
DATE: August 27, 2015
SUBJECT: Assay Update Concerning Dilution for BNP and TSH

In an ongoing effort to keep our clients informed, Regional Medical Laboratory (RML) is advising you of changes to our TSH and BNP assays. The manufacturer has updated their procedures, and as a result, RML will no longer provide routine dilutions for results above the assay's linearity. The manufacturer states that reporting values above the linearity range for these assays does not provide clinical value in treating the patient.

We have reviewed the last 18 months of result data for both TSH and BNP and have found that during this period approximately 0.1%-0.2% of the reported patient results required dilutions. With the support of this data and the notification, we will no longer routinely perform dilutions on these assays. Effective September, 2015, RML will begin reporting the upper limit of these two assays as 'greater than.'

Test Name	THYROID STIMULATING HORMONE
Order Mnemonic	TSH
Test Number	4501925
CPT4 Code	84443
LOINC Code	3016-3
Comments	Results above 150 µIU/mL will be reported >150 µIU/mL

Test Name	BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE (BNP)
Order Mnemonic	BRAIN PEP
Test Number	2015175
CPT4 Code	83880
LOINC Code	30934-4
Comments	Results above 5000 pg/mL will be reported >5000 pg/mL

RML understands there are situations when the clinician needs a definitive numeric result. Please feel free to contact our pathologists for a consultation or to request a dilution.

This will go into effect September 2015. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either Dr. William Fitter at 918-744-2553, wfitter@sjmc.org, or Mary Pille at 918-744-2555 ext. 15788, Mary.Pille@sjmc.org.