

# Laboratory Updates | Troponin, Ammonia, Vancomycin, and

## Acetaminophen (Serum Drug Tox Screen) levels

### New Chemistry Analyzers

Intermountain Health Laboratory Services will upgrade chemistry analyzers in Canyons and Desert regions between Q4 2023 and Q1 2025. This upgrade will ensure we provide the best results with faster turn-around times to better care for our patients.

For most tests, nursing caregivers will notice few, if any, minor changes. However, it is important to highlight changes for troponin, ammonia, vancomycin, and Acetaminophen (Serum Drug Tox Screen) levels.

### Troponin

With the new analyzers comes a new High-Sensitivity Troponin T test. High-Sensitivity Troponin T provides more information for clinicians and nurses with faster turn-around times. Be aware of the following changes with High-Sensitivity Troponin T:

1. **Mint** top tubes are the only acceptable tube type for this test
2. This test is sensitive to hemolysis\*
  - a. Specimens that are moderately to severely hemolyzed require recollection
3. Results will be in whole numbers, not decimals. For example:
  - a. Old reference ranges were 0.00-0.04
  - b. New reference ranges will be  $\leq 14$  for female patients and  $\leq 22$  for male patients
4. A second Troponin T test is typically required 2 hours after the first
  - a. Comparing the first and second result will help determine how best to care for our patients
  - b. Refer to [Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome \(ACS\) – ED and Inpatient Patient Care Algorithm](#)

### Ammonia

The only acceptable specimen for ammonia levels will be a **lavender** top tube immediately placed and transported to the laboratory on ice. Send the sample STAT to the laboratory.

### Vancomycin

The only acceptable tube type for vancomycin levels will be a **red** top tube or a **lavender** top tube.

### Acetaminophen (Serum Drug Tox Screen)

The only specimen type for acetaminophen levels will be a **red** top tube or a **lavender** top tube. This change also pertains to Serum Drug Tox Screen, which includes acetaminophen, alcohol, and salicylate. Drugs of Abuse Screen, Urine Toxicology remains unaffected.

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\*Clinically impactful hemolysis can occur during specimen collection. To reduce the likelihood of hemolysis, allow alcohol to dry completely prior to collection, instruct the patient not to pump their fist, use an appropriately sized needle (>25g), collect from the antecubital fossa, and ensure tourniquet has not been in place for more than one minute.