New hematology tests available May 1

**WHAT’S NEW?**
Effective Sun., May 1, PeaceHealth Laboratories will begin offering three new hematology tests.

**CBC with PATHOLOGIST REVIEW (LAB2742)**
- For use in patients with hematological abnormalities that require pathologist consultation. Includes both a pathologist review and a CBC with automated differential.

**PLATELET COUNT, CTAD (LAB6268)**
- For use in patients with chronic platelet clumping on previous CBC orders.
- Involves collection into a targeted anti-platelet anticoagulant highly effective at preventing platelet clumping, allowing an accurate platelet count.

**SCHISTOCYTE COUNT, BLOOD (LAB6267)**
- Allows schistocyte quantitation to be ordered for evaluation of microangiopathic hemolytic anemias (TTP, HUS, DIC, etc).
- Schistocytes reported as percentage of RBCs, based on 1000 cell count.

**SUMMARY OF NEW TESTS:**
**CBC with PATHOLOGIST REVIEW** allows physicians to easily order both a pathologist review and a CBC with automated differential. It is intended for use in patients with suspected hematological abnormalities that require pathologist consultation. We will continue to offer a Pathologist Review Only option (LAB6415) for those patients where a manual CBC or CBC as part of a panel is required.

**PLATELET COUNT, CTAD** specifies collection into a special tube containing multiple anti-platelet agents: citrate, theophylline, adenosine, and dipyridamole. This tube is highly effective at preventing platelet clumping in patients with a prior pattern of clumping when collected into EDTA. This is a common problem attributed in many cases to clinically trivial antibodies active in EDTA which can prevent accurate reporting of the platelet count. This phenomenon can be particularly problematic in patients with real or apparent (artifactual) concurrent thrombocytopenia, where an accurate platelet count is important. Preliminary studies at PeaceHealth Laboratories (PHL) have confirmed that platelet clumping occurring in EDTA and citrate anticoagulants is prevented in most cases using CTAD tubes. PHL and published studies both show that equivalent platelet count results are obtained with EDTA vs. CTAD tubes in normal patients.

**SCHISTOCYTE COUNT, BLOOD** allows physicians to easily order a microscopic quantitation of schistocytes following established consensus guidelines for enumeration. Schistocytes are a non-specific finding which can be seen with many disorders including kidney disease, burns, and heart valves; however, at levels >1.0% this finding is strongly suggestive of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, including TTP in clinically compatible patients. TTP is an acute diagnosis with high mortality untreated and good survival with appropriate therapy. ADAMTS13 testing may be useful in diagnosis but is neither specific nor sensitive for TTP. Schistocyte quantitation provides a rapid and inexpensive method for initial evaluation.

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References:
Platelet Count, CTAD

Schistocytes Count, Blood