March 30, 2010

To: Chiefs of Service, Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nurses and Other Concerned Personnel

From: Kara Lynch, PhD, DABCC
Associate Division Chief, Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology

Alan Wu, PhD, DABCC
Division Chief, Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology

Eberhard Fiebig, M.D.
Laboratory Director

Re: Implementation of in-house Vitamin D testing

Effective April 5, 2010, the Clinical Laboratory will be performing 25-hydroxyvitamin measurements in-house using Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). We will no longer send 25-hydroxyvitamin D testing to our reference laboratory, ARUP. The new method utilizes a different technology than the current vitamin D method performed at ARUP. ARUP uses a chemiluminescent immunoassay to determine total vitamin D measurements; currently, only the total vitamin D is reported. The new in-house LC-MS/MS assay allows for the quantitation of vitamin D2 and vitamin D3. With the new method, we will be reporting three values: 25-hydroxyvitamin D2, 25-hydroxy-vitamin D3 and total vitamin D.

In validation studies, the total vitamin D patient values obtained with the new method correlated well with the ARUP immunoassay values. There will be no changes in test ordering, specimen requirements, turn-around-time or reference/normal ranges for vitamin D by the new method.

For more information about this test, please see our online lab manual entry for Vitamin D (http://labmed.ucsf.edu/sfghlab/data/tests/356.html).

For questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Lynch at 206-5477.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.