



Technical Memorandum

TO: Physicians, Staff

From: Wesley Kim, MD, Medical Director
Deborah Moffitt, MT (ASCP)

Date: June 30, 2011

Subject: Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT) Ratio Reporting Discontinued

Effective 7/5/11, the Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT) Ratio will be no longer be reported when a PTT is ordered. The PTT clotting time in seconds will be the only reported result.

Historically, the PTT Ratio was used to monitor the therapeutic range in patients being treated with heparin. However, the PTT Ratio is not an accurate measure of heparin levels. The sensitivity of the PTT assay to heparin varies from reagent to reagent, lot number to lot number, and between different manufacturers. There are also individual patient variables that can affect the results.

There are significantly better methods for Heparin monitoring such as the Heparin UF test (5649), Anti-Factor Xa assay. Presently, the QMC pharmacy algorithms for heparin dosing are based on the Heparin UF test results. In addition, if using just the APTT result in seconds alone to monitor heparin, the therapeutic range is determined by correlating the results to the Heparin UF test. As such, calculation and reporting of the PTT ratio may lead to discrepant or inaccurate results and will be discontinued.

If you have any questions please call DLS Client Services at 589-5101 or Dr. Wesley Kim at 589-5131.