DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC.

Technical Memorandum

TO: Physicians, Staff

From: Wesley Kim, MD, Medical Director
Ana Ortega-Lopez, MD, Medical Director

Date: September 23, 2015

Subject: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (Automated ESR)

Diagnostic Laboratory Services continues to look for ways to improve the quality of its laboratory services. Beginning October 19, 2015, DLS at Central Laboratory and QMC Punchbowl Laboratory will implement a new iSED™ for ESR analysis. The iSED™ is an automated test method and allows us to standardize internal laboratory procedures related to specimen processing, analysis, and resulting. This will improve the quality and reliability of test results, reduce turn-around time, improve efficiency, and increase overall quality of our services to our clients and their patients.

Based on verification study, clinicians may see a variation in the numerical values when comparing results between the manual modified Westergren method, to automated iSED™, which utilizes Photometric Rheoscope as its method. As such, if ESR is being used to routinely monitor patients overtime, it is recommended that, where clinically indicated, patients should be re-baselined with the new method before making clinical decisions. Reference range will remain the same.

Test Information:

Test	Unit Code	Specimen Requirement		Reference Range	Units	CPT (New)
ESR	534	EDTAk2 (Lavender)	Male: <50 years Male: >= 50 years Female: < 50 years Female: >= 50 years	0 – 15 0 – 20 0 – 20 0 - 30	mm/hr	85652

DLS will monitor the new method very closely and make adjustments to ensure optimal performance. Because of this, it is important that any feedback, questions, or concerns that you may have in regards to laboratory performance, be immediately communicated to our client services, your marketing representative, or a DLS Laboratory Director, so that they may be addressed to ensure the quality and safety of laboratory results.

You may contact DLS Client Services at 589-5101, or Dr. Wesley J. Kim at 589-5131.