

# SEMC LABORATORY TESTING UPDATES

## D-Dimer Testing Changes

**Please note the following information and share it with your staff.**

On **April 1st, 2009** the Clinical Laboratory will be changing analyzers and reagents for D-dimer testing. The new test is an automated, latex-enhanced immunoassay for the quantitative determination of D-Dimer manufactured by Beckman-Coulter. This test is diagnostically equivalent to the previous Vidas Elisa method and has been cleared by the FDA for aiding in the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

This test will be performed at St. Elizabeth South, North, and Grant County. The test turnaround time is less than half that of the previous Vidas Elisa test.

### **DVT/PE Exclusion Cutoff Level**

The cutoff level will change for D-dimer. Results will be reported in D-dimer units instead of fibrinogen equivalent units (FEU). Our previous method, the Vidas Elisa, used FEU. The test result in FEU is twice that of D-dimer units. The new cutoff value is therefore about half of the old cutoff value.

<b><u>Test</u></b>	<b><u>New Cutoff Value</u></b>	<b><u>Old Cutoff Value</u></b>
<b>D-dimer</b>	<b>&lt; 230 ng/mL</b> (D-dimer units)	<b>&lt; 500 ng/mL</b> (fibrinogen equivalent units)

The patient report will have the cutoff value as the lower limit “< 230 ng/mL” with an upper reportable limit of 5,000 ng/mL.

If you have questions or comments about the above changes, please contact Dr. Pemberton at (859) 301-2357.