



To: All CDL clients
From: Director of Quality Management
Subject : **Pre-Analytical Reminders**
Date: November 23rd, 2018

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THE NURSING STAFF

Dear client,

In order to continuously improve patient healthcare, CDL routinely monitors the quality of specimens received at the laboratory to ensure the proper guidelines are followed and that specimen integrity is maintained.

Lately, CDL has been receiving an increased number of hemolyzed specimens which often results in specimens having to be redrawn.

Hemolysis generally occurs from improper specimen collection, specimen processing or transport. In order to avoid re-draws, which causes an inconvenience to the patient, the staff collecting the samples must adhere to the following recommendations:

- Use a 19-23 gauge needle (smaller gauge needles could result in hemolysis)
- Warm the puncture site to increase blood flow
- Allow the venipuncture site to completely air dry after cleaning with alcohol
- Do not leave the tourniquet on for longer than one minute, this promotes hemolysis
- For patients: Avoid opening and closing of the hand
- Do not vigorously mix or shake the tube after specimen collection
- Sample should not be taken from a hematoma site
- Do not rush clotting time, centrifuging too soon after collection can cause hemolysis

It is also essential to properly centrifuge specimens prior to shipping them to the laboratory and avoid centrifuging specimens at a higher speed or longer than necessary.

For more information please contact the laboratory at: 514 344-8022 ext. 223.

We thank you for your continued support,

Director of Quality Management