



Hagerstown Medical Laboratory, LLC


11110 Medical Campus Road, Suite 230
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Telephone 301.665.4LAB (4522)
Toll-free 800.428.2105
hagerstownmedlab.com

Director: John G. Newby, M.D., F.C.A.P. Associate Directors: Gary M Mire, M.D., F.C.A.P. Michael J. O'Donoghue, M.D., F.C.A.P.

Date: February 8, 2012

To: Clients of Hagerstown Medical Laboratory (HML)

From: John G. Newby, MD 
Director of Laboratories

Subject: Acetone testing

In November of 2011, Bayer Corporation experienced manufacturing problems with the production of Acetest tablets. HML utilizes Acetest tablets for Acetone testing. We have been unable to procure the product and the current delivery date is estimated to be the end of February. We will exhaust our in-house supply of tablets by approximately February 10 and will cease in-house Acetone testing until new supplies arrive.

During this reagent outage, orders for Acetone testing will be forwarded to our reference lab, Quest Diagnostics. Since Quest only sets this test up Monday through Friday in the morning, results may not be available until 3-5 days after the specimen is collected. We realize that the clinical utility of this test will be limited since testing for ketones is usually performed in the Emergency Department in the setting of ketoacidosis. The turn-around time of 2-3 days is essentially useless in that clinical setting. In the rare instance where serum Acetone is needed, the Quest assay will suffice. Please be mindful that this is an expensive assay and should therefore be ordered judiciously.

HML regrets this inconvenience and will notify you as soon as the test is again available in-house. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me by calling 301-665-4900 or 1-800-428-2105.