



Hagerstown Medical Laboratory, LLC


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Date: March 16, 2012

To: Clients of Hagerstown Medical Laboratory (HML)

From: John G. Newby, MD 
Director of Laboratories

Subject: Update: Acetone Testing

As previously reported in a memo dated February 8, 2012, Bayer Corporation experienced manufacturing problems with the production of Acetest tablets. HML utilizes Acetest tablets for Acetone testing. While the manufacturing plant is once again producing Acetest tablets, Bayer is unable to provide a delivery date to HML for their reagent order.

Until HML receives the backordered Acetest tablets, orders for Acetone testing will continue to be forwarded to our reference lab, Quest Diagnostics. You will recall that Quest only sets this test up Monday through Friday in the morning, therefore, 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 and the turn-around time of 2-3 days renders this test result 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.