

# Memo:

## BC Guidelines for Ordering BNP Testing in Chronic HF

Issued January 31, 2022

<b>To:</b>	NH Physicians and NH Laboratories
<b>From:</b>	Laboratory Services
<b>Cc:</b>	Lisette Vienneau, NH Director of Diagnostic Services
<b>Re:</b>	NT pro-BNP Testing in Chronic HF – Diagnostic and Management

NH Laboratories offer support to all physicians in their daily diagnosis and monitoring of patients' conditions. We recognize that BNP is a useful tool in predicting prognoses in patients with heart failure.

NH offers a couple of platforms for NT-proBNP testing, one of these being the Roche Cobas h232. Although Cobas h232 is designed as a Point of Care device, it is being used by certain labs in NH to provide STAT testing for NT-proBNP.

In December 2021, the supplier for the currently approved test reagent for NT-proBNP testing on Cobas h232 experienced a very high demand of the test cassettes and was unable to fill customer orders. Due to the COVID-19 worldwide situation, the NT-proBNP reagent cassettes shortage will continue with no estimated time for resolution.

Because of the shortage of reagents for the foreseeable future, we would please ask physicians to request **STAT** NT pro-BNP with careful consideration so the laboratories using Cobas h232 can continue to support urgent requests. We will perform one (1) STAT NTpro-BNP per patient if clinically indicated. Serial or daily testing will no longer be performed as per [BC Guidelines, Chronic Heart Failure – Diagnostic and Management](#). If there is a worsening of symptoms or significant change in the patient's clinical status or other indication for repeat NT pro-BNP, the laboratory will collect a serum sample and send it to the reference lab for an NT pro-BNP assay with higher sensitivity. The results will be available in 24-48 hours.

Caveat: Reference Ranges for the two NT-proBNP platforms are different due to the difference in sample type (whole blood vs serum) as well as the methodology of testing. To support physicians in interpretation of results, Cerner applies the interpretation guidelines to each result.

We thank you in advance for helping us to conserve lab resources in these difficult times.