

Date: 6/13/2023

To: UCM Medical Staff, House staff, Nursing Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

From: KT Jerry Yeo, PhD, DABCC
Medical Director, Clinical Chemistry Laboratories

Subject: Intermittent Disruption of Hospital Purified (RO) Water affecting Chemistry Lab TAT and Total Calcium

Effective Date: 6/13/2023

Laboratory Section: Clinical Chemistry

Summary:

The Clinical Chemistry Laboratories have been experiencing intermittent disruptions this week of our hospital RO water which supplies deionized water to our automation chemistry systems which perform most of the clinical chemistry testing panels. The latest water disruption occurred late last night around 11.30pm (June 12) and the RO water supply was restored around 11.30am this morning (12 hours disruption). Due to this unanticipated downtime, TATs were affected. Critical care areas were notified by phone calls during this period.

Upon restoration of the RO supply, the total calcium assay has failed our quality control checks. Thus, we are unable to report total calcium until we can restore its performance to pass our quality specifications.

If you need calcium levels for immediate care of your patients, please order an ionized calcium (IOCA) on a Li heparin plasma sample.

Questions:

If there are any questions regarding this change, please contact:

- Dr. Jerry Yeo from Clinical Chemistry (jyeo@bsd.uchicago.edu)