

Date: 6/27/2023

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
Professor of Pathology

Subject: Water Issues affecting Total Calcium & Bicarbonate

Effective Date: 6/27/2023

Laboratory Section: Clinical Chemistry Laboratories

Summary:

Beginning at approximately 8.45am this morning, the clinical chemistry laboratory stopped performing plasma total calcium and bicarbonate tests and these tests have been cancelled due to the failure of our quality control checks on our automated analyzers related again to a water issue.

Turnaround times for routine chemistry panels may also be delayed due to the additional manual work associated with this issue.

Critical care areas have already been notified about this issue.

Until this water issue is corrected, and these tests can be resumed, if an immediate assessment of bicarbonate and calcium are required, please consider ordering a venous blood gas analysis:

- **RTVGAS:** contains amongst other tests: $p\text{CO}_2$ and calculated bicarbonate and/or
- **RTMETB:** contains calculated bicarbonate and ionized calcium.

Results from the blood gas analyzers are NOT affected by this water issue.

We thank you for your patience and understanding while we are working with Plant Engineering to troubleshoot the water quality issues affecting these 2 tests. Once fully resolved we will resume testing for plasma total calcium and bicarbonate and send out a note to the effect.

Questions:

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

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