



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago
Medicine

Clinical Laboratories

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

From: Krzysztof Mikrut, B.S. MT (ASCP)
Technical Director, Coagulation Laboratory
Geoffrey Wool, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Director, Coagulation Laboratory

Date: 10/30/2024

Subject: **Replacement of von Willebrand factor (vWF) functional assay**

Effective Date: 10/30/2024 *Publish in advance of effective date if and when possible.*

Laboratory Section: Coagulation

Summary: As of 10/30/2024, the UCM Coagulation Laboratory is replacing our assay of vWF platelet binding functionality. We will begin using the vWF:GplbM assay, which is a particle agglutination assay using recombinant GPIb with two gain-of-function mutations which can bind patient vWF without ristocetin.

The vWF:GplbM is one of the assays recommended by ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the diagnosis of von Willebrand disease. This new assay is orderable in EPIC as “vWF, Gplb Binding (vWF:GplbM)” and as part of the “von Willebrand disease panel”.

The vWF:GplbM assay replaces our current functional immunoassay (“vWF glycoprotein Ib (gplb) Binding Activity”) whose monoclonal antibody is directed against the vWF A1 domain (site of binding for platelet glycoprotein Ib). That assay is not recommended by current guidelines and its use is decreasing worldwide.

Test code: VWFGPIBM

CPT code: 85245

Turnaround time: Up to four days

Specimen requirements: Citrated whole blood (blue top), one

Reference range: 50-203%

Lower limit of reportable: 5%

Performing lab: UCM Clinical Laboratories

The vWD panel (three blue top tubes) will now include:

- vWF antigen (vWF:Ag)
- vWF Gplb binding (vWF:GplbM)
- vWF collagen binding (vWF:CB)
- FVIII activity

Coagulation laboratory pathologists will continue to add-on additional assays for borderline or difficult cases, or when the clinical history is suggestive of vWD.

Questions: If there are any questions regarding the change, test requirements or ordering, please contact: Krzysztof Mikrut, Laboratory Manager, at 773-702-1315, or Geoffrey Wool, MD PhD, Medical Director, at 773-926-1455.

