



To: All Clinicians using the EPOC Point of Care Blood Analysis System
From: Melissa S Pessin, MD PhD, CLIA Medical Director, Hyde Park Point of Care Services
Date: 4/10/2026
Subject: EPOC Analyzer Potassium (K), Hematocrit (Hct) and calculated Hemoglobin (cHgb)
Analytes Being Turned Off Until Further Notice

Effective Date: 4/10/2026

Laboratory Section: Point-of-Care Testing

Summary:

- The Point of Care service has determined that the K, Hct, and cHgb (calculated from the measured Hct) analytes on the EPOC analyzers need to be turned off until further notice due to discrepancies in some results.
- This comes after an investigation into the performance of these tests after complaints about their accuracy from users in both the ED and OR.
- It appears that these discrepancies are occurring due to both preanalytical (i.e. sample hemolysis and/or contamination by IV fluids/medications) and analytical issues (incorrect instrument performance).
 - We estimate approximately 5% of Hct and approximately 3% of the K are incorrect due to reagent cartridge issues and preanalytical issues are causing an additional 30% of Hct results to be higher than expected and hemolysis is causing additional 4% of K to be higher than expected.
- We are currently determining the next steps to resolve this issue.
- If you need rapid Hct/Hgb or K results during this time,
 - In Hyde Park Order: VENOUS METABOLIC/ELECTROLYTE W/ LACTATE [LABRTRMETBV] Send sample to Clinical Chemistry, tube station: 905
 - In the Crown Point micro hospital/ED: from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm on Monday through Friday potassium (LABCHK) or basic metabolic panel (LABCHKPNL) testing may be sent to the Crown Point ambulatory lab. During other times send testing for potassium to Hyde Park or to Methodist Hospital (Merrillville, Indiana) via stat courier.

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

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