

AFFECTED TESTS:

- **IONIZED CALCIUM [LAB3041150]**

EXPLANATION:

Ionized calcium is very sensitive to cell metabolism and pH change. Ruby Memorial Hospital Respiratory Care blood gas laboratory has been accepting serum specimen from the entire WVU Health System, to accommodate the need of outpatients. However, ionized calcium test using serum is considered a high-complexity test, that is subject to more stringent regulation. Our current staff are not able to support this test anymore.

Ruby Respiratory Care blood gas laboratory will stop accepting serum specimen for ionized calcium test. Outpatient serum samples will be sent to Quest Diagnostics. We will continue offering ionized calcium test for inpatients, with heparinized whole blood collected in a dark green top tube or blood-gas syringe as the only acceptable specimen type.

This change applies to all WVU Health System Laboratories that are sending serum samples to Ruby lab.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS TESTING

Peter L. Hornbeck, Clinical Specialist – Respiratory Care Services
304-598-4025
peter.hornbeck@wvumedicine.org

Meranda Mancino, Technical Specialist – Chemistry
304-598-4241
meranda.mancino@wvumedicine.org

Jianbo Yang, PhD, Medical Director –
Respiratory Care Blood Gas Laboratory
304-598-6393
jianbo.yang@hsc.wvu.edu

Danyel H. Tacker, PhD, Medical Director –
Chemistry & Clinical Mass Spectrometry Laboratories
304-598-4243
dtacker@hsc.wvu.edu