TEST METHOD CHANGE
NOTIFICATION DATE: 8/22//2022
EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2022

AFFECTED TESTS:

- **PROCALCITONIN [LAB3041196]**
- **PROCALCITONIN ALGORITHM [LAB1230628]**

EXPLANATION:

Procalcitonin is used to aid in the risk assessment of critically ill patients for progression to severe sepsis and septic shock, and to aid in decision making on antibiotic discontinuation for patients with sepsis or lower respiratory tract infections. WVU Medicine Laboratory has performed this test on the semi-automated VIDAS immunoanalyzer historically, but testing will move to a fully automated Alinity analyzer on 09/01/2022, which will provide faster turn-around time with fewer personnel requirements. The acceptable **specimen types remain the SAME** and include light green top, red top and gold top tubes. Similarly, there are **NO changes in clinical cutoff values**.

Verification studies showed good correlation between the old and the new methods at clinical decision points. However, for procalcitonin values above 2.00 ng/mL, results by the new method average ~27% lower than results by the old method.

For providers with any concerns or questions about the new test, particularly for patients with high procalcitonin values being monitored for decline during the test transition, please contact the laboratory within the first two days of testing (i.e. 1-2 September). In such cases, residual specimen can be retested by the old method and additional results reported as a comment. Once patients are re-baselined, however, further parallel testing is no longer necessary.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS TESTING

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