

To: Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Providers and Staff

From: North Shore Pathologists/Columbia St. Mary's Laboratory Leadership

RE: ESR (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate) Testing at Columbia St. Mary's Milwaukee Laboratory

Date: September 29, 2017

Effective Monday, **October 9, 2017**, CSM Milwaukee Laboratory will implement an automated ESR using the Roller 20 PN analyzer. This will replace the manual modified Westergren ESR as the primary method of testing. The modified Westergren will remain as a back-up method during instrument downtime.

CSM Ozaukee Laboratory will no longer perform ESR testing on site; testing will be sent to the Milwaukee Laboratory. CRP (C-Reactive Protein), an inflammatory marker which increases in the first 24 hours of inflammation/infection, has been added to the Ozaukee Laboratory's on site test menu.

The new automated ESR test methodology utilizes photometric-kinetic technology and transforms results to Westergren values (mm/hour).

In most cases, results compare well between methods; however, unlike the modified Westergren method, the automated method is less affected by changes in erythrocyte size, shape, number and other analytical factors that are unrelated to inflammation.

Reference ranges will remain the same for both methods.

Reportable Range: ≤ 2 to ≥ 120 mm/hour

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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