

HEMATOLOGY UPDATE

PT and PTT Specimen Handling Requirements

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009

The Hematology Lab will be changing our procedure for specimen handling requirements of PT and PTT tests effective July 1st.

Prothrombin Times:

Current: PT samples thought to be stable refrigerated up to 12 hours.

NEW: New Clinical Laboratory Institute Standards Guidelines recommend they are stable at **room temperature** up to 24 hours.

Partial Thromboplastin Time

Current: PTT samples were thought to be stable refrigerated up to 12 hours.

NEW: New Clinical Laboratory Institute Standards Guidelines recommend they are stable at room temperature for **ONLY 4 HOURS**. This may necessitate samples to be transported by a **stat courier**.

Please contact Client Services or your Sales representative if any questions or concerns at 413-322-4000. Thank you for your continued support.