

New high-sensitivity troponin assay

Following an extensive review of currently available assays, we are changing our troponin testing platform from high-sensitivity troponin T (TnT) to high-sensitivity troponin I (TnI). The new TnI assay offers excellent sensitivity with levels reported down to 2ng/L – well within the reference range for both male and female patients, <26ng/L and <16ng/L respectively.

The increased sensitivity of the TnI assay enables its use in early 'rule-out' algorithms, to exclude the acute coronary syndrome (ACS) in patients presenting to emergency centres with recent chest pain.

New state-of-the-art instrumentation is being deployed throughout all SNP laboratories in a staged transition between September 2018 and July 2019. Please expect to receive a letter with detailed information about the

new assay and the timeline for the changeover prior to implementation at your regional laboratory.

During the transition, TnT will continue to be performed on request and on a non-urgent basis at the central laboratory at Bowen Hills.

Please note that urgent troponin requests are not advised for community patient presentations. In situations where a myocardial infarction is suspected, the patient should immediately be referred for emergency treatment.

More information please contact:

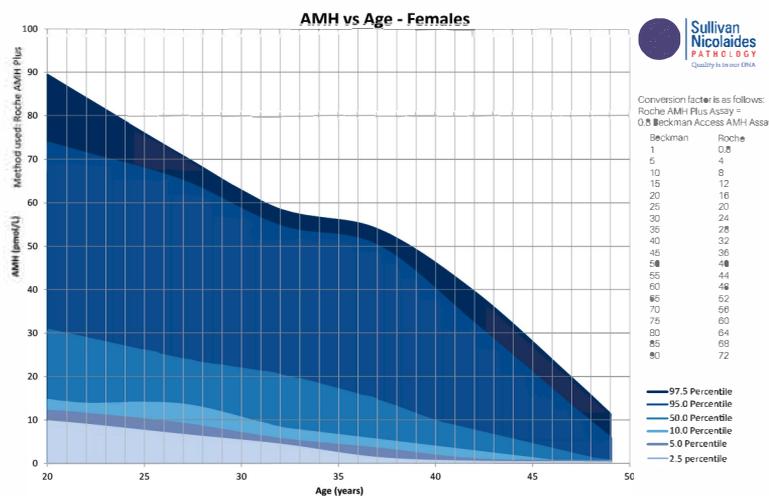
Dr David Kanowski (David_Kanowski@snp.com.au, 07 3377 8779) or
Dr Lee Price (07 3377 8672)

Reference percentile chart now available for new Anti-Mullerian Hormone assay

In July this year we changed our testing platform for Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH) to the Roche AMH Plus assay. This offers several analytical advantages, including the ability for the results to be used when dosing with the recombinant FSH drug, Rekovelle®.

AMH levels are slightly different from the former assay, with the levels of AMH in the Roche assay running at 80% of the levels seen with the Beckman assay previously used.

To help our doctors compare and convert previous AMH results, we have produced a reference graph. The graph can be downloaded from snp.com.au or contact your medical liaison manager on 1300 767 284.



- What to order:** AMH
- Clinical notes:** Record the day of cycle on request form and state if the patient is on contraception
- Sample:** SST, refrigerated transport
- Fees:** No Medicare rebate – private fee applies
- More information:** Please contact Dr David Kanowski (David_Kanowski@snp.com.au, 07 3377 8779)

National Cervical Screening Program update: Women over 75 are now eligible for a Medicare-funded HPV test

Following a review of the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP), women over the age of 75 are now eligible to access a Medicare-funded HPV test. They must not have had a screening test during the previous five years.

Eligibility:

- Women over 24 years and 9 months can claim an HPV test (no age limit) every five years, and can exit-test between the ages of 70 and 74 if their previous HPV test is normal.
- Beyond the age of 75, they can now continue to have Medicare-funded screening every five years if they wish.
- Those who have exited the program but wish to return will be covered by Medicare.

Please be aware that Medicare adheres closely to eligibility criteria when processing claims.

Only one test can be claimed during a five-year (57-month) period for asymptomatic women over the age of 25. In the absence of justification for more frequent testing, or testing patients younger than 25, claims are being rejected by Medicare, and SNP is then reluctantly issuing an account to the patient.

For more information go to:

https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening
https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Clinical_question:Screening_in_women_older_than_75



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New Sonic DxPlus secure mail system delivers real-time reporting for infection control

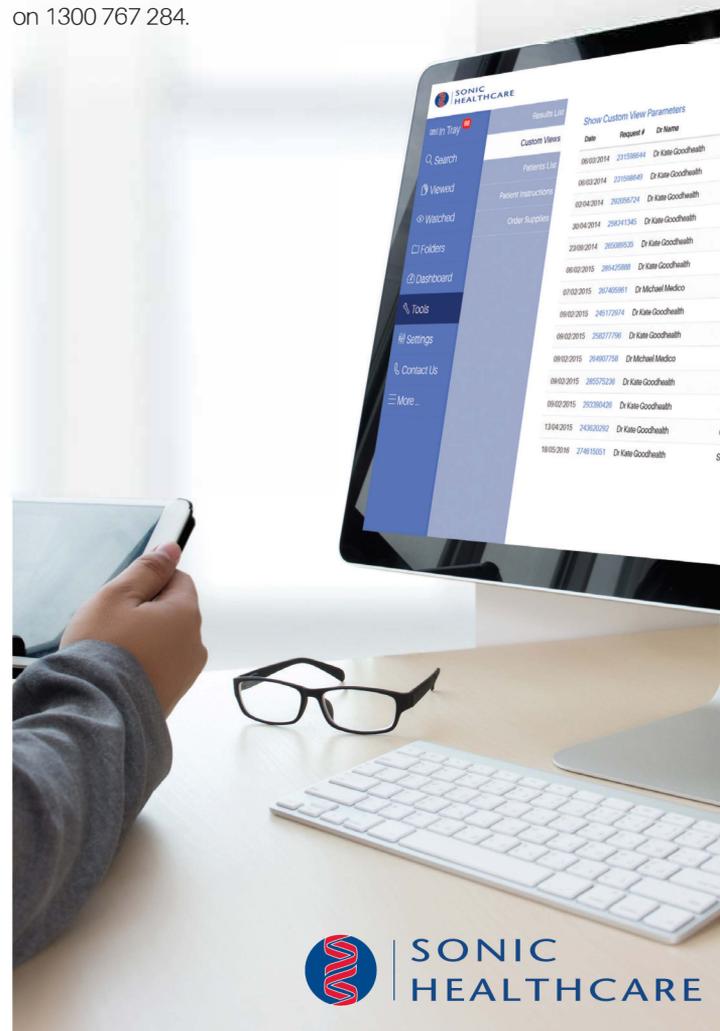
The latest addition to Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology's on-line portal, Sonic Dx, is the ability to securely transmit reports. Known as Sonic DxPlus, it allows us to provide you with relevant task-specific reports. Blood bank usage and infectious diseases reports that we provide to hospital and aged-care facilities are the first reports to be delivered by the new Sonic DxPlus. This initiative is exclusive to SNP's services and is our way of supporting the hospitals, aged-care facilities and communities we serve.

We provide both institution-specific and aggregated antibiograms to enable infection control co-ordinators to compare their data across the region in order to make better-informed Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) decisions. We regard this service as being central to our obligations regarding AMS, and in line with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's 2018 report which highlighted the vital role played by microbiology laboratories.

Infection control information is delivered as interim and final reports for review and management of current trends. The reports include notifications of organisms of significance such as respiratory viruses, Legionella urinary antigen, AFB microscopy-positive specimens, faecal enteropathogens and antibiotic resistant significant organisms such as MRSA, VR and CPE.

Blood bank reports enable hospital transfusion committees to review usage rates for appropriate management of blood stocks.

For more information about Sonic DxPlus please contact your Medical Liaison Manager on 1300 767 284.



Changes to services during Christmas and New Year



Warfarin Care enrolments

To ensure the safe and complete enrolment of patients into our Warfarin Care program, enrolments will be closed between the following dates:

Community patients: closing 5 pm Friday 7th December 2018 and re-opening 9 am Wednesday 2nd January 2018.

Hospital patients: closing 5 pm Tuesday 11th December 2018 and re-opening 9 am Wednesday 2nd January 2018.

Collection centres

Please visit our website snp.com.au for information regarding collection centre closures.

Cardiology services

To ensure all results are received prior to the Christmas break, please note the final dates for cardiology testing in 2018 are:

Monday 17th December – 48hr Holter Monitoring

Tuesday 18th December – 24hr Holter & Ambulatory Blood Pressure (ABP) Monitoring

Thursday 20th December – ECGs.

All results will be issued by Friday 21st December and appointments will recommence from the first week of January.

The Cardiology Department will be closed from COB Friday 21st December and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January, 2019. For access to results during this time, please contact the Doctor Service Centre on 1300 778 555.