

# Memo

**To:** PHYSICIANS LABORATORY SERVICES CLIENTS

**Date:** MARCH, 2009

**From:** Cassy Richards, MT(ASCP) – Omaha Hematology Supervisor

**Re:** 1) **TEST #205 PT (PROTHROMBIN TIME) STORAGE AND STABILITY CHANGE**  
2) **ROOM TEMPERATURE (AMBIENT) TRANSPORT BAGS**

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- 1). Per CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute) Guidelines: "Collection, Transport, and Processing of Blood Specimens for Testing Plasma-Based Coagulation Assays and Molecular Hemostasis Assays; Approved Guideline—Fifth Edition" (H21-A5 Vol. 28 No.5 PT (Protime) specimens are to be submitted at room temperature and may no longer be refrigerated. Recent studies have shown that refrigeration can cause cold activation of specific clotting factors.

**Until May 1, 2009, specimens received refrigerated will be tested and reported with a disclaimer; however, after May 1, 2009, refrigerated specimens will no longer be accepted.**

**Test #205 Prothrombin Time (PT)/INR**  
**Specimen:** 5.0 mL Whole Blood Citrated  
**Storage:** **Ambient (Room Temp.) 24 hours; Frozen 1 week.**  
**Note:** If the specimen cannot be transported to laboratory within 24 hours, centrifuge the specimen, separate plasma from the cells, and freeze the plasma.

Cost and CPT codes will remain the same.

**Note:** **Specimen requirements for test #206 aPTT remain the same; the plasma should be removed from the cells and frozen within 4 hours of collection.**

- 2). To aid storage and transportation, "green- colored" Physicians Laboratory "Room Temperature" (ambient) Biohazard Bags have been ordered and will be available within a few weeks. We will distribute them to our clients as soon as received.