

# ANOTHER *BLOODY* NEWSLETTER!

## October 2005



### Purchasing supplies from Clinical Pathology:

Clinical Pathology has instituted a new policy for purchasing supplies as of June 24, 2005. Our supplies are now in locked cabinets. Miscellaneous supply request forms will be outside of Clin Path with other laboratory request forms. Fill out the request form completely, and leave it in the basket labeled "Completed Supply Request Forms." Orders will be filled by a Clin Path staff member, and your supplies can be picked up Monday – Friday from 3-5 PM. The student lab is currently stocked by Clin Path staff members.

**Hematology:** It has been suggested that underfilling EDTA tubes (causing excess EDTA) can create clumping of platelets. Please fill tubes completely unless volume is critical - use microtainer tubes if necessary.

**Coagulation:** The FDP procedure is validated for **canines** only. D-Dimer (DD) and ATIII (AT) can be run on canine, feline, and equine specimens.

### **Our recommended panels are:**

C3: PT/APTT/Plt	K-9,Fel,Eq
C4: PT/APTT/DD/AT	K-9,Fel,Eq
C5: PT/APTT/Plt/FDP/DD	K-9
C6: PT/APTT/Plt/FDP/DD/AT	K-9

### **Clin Path hours:**

The Clin Path service hours are:

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Weekdays

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Weekends

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Holidays

Emergency samples must be submitted at approximately 7 p.m. to be completed the same evening. Call-back hours will begin at 8 p.m. weekdays and weekends, and at 2 p.m. on holidays.

### **CE – Urine protein dipstick vs. SSA:**

We currently have two methods of detecting and evaluating urine proteins. **The dipstick method**, using Chemstrip 9, is based on the principle of "the protein error of pH indicators". A positive change is indicated by a color change from yellow to light green/green. False-positive results may include: highly buffered alkaline urine, infusion of blood substitute, or when the urine specimen bottle contains residues of certain disinfectants. False negative reactions may include low to moderate amounts of Bence Jones protein, or an acidified urine specimen.

In the **SSA (Sulfosalicylic Acid) Turbidometric Protein test**, urine protein produces a precipitate with resultant turbidity that is approximately equal to the quantity of protein present. This is a semi-quantitative procedure, as not all types of protein form the same amount of turbidity with the same concentration of protein. This test may be positive despite a negative dipstick if Bence Jones proteins are present. False-positive reactions include: turbid urine prior to start of test, radiopaque contrast agents excreted in urine, excretion of large quantities of penicillin, cephaloridine, or sulfisoxazole, co-precipitation of crystals, and any substance precipitated by acid. False-negative reactions may include highly buffered alkaline urine and inability to read results because of turbid urine.

**In conclusion**, do not over-interpret the dipstick or SSA protein results.

### References:

Osborne, CA, Stevens, JB: *Urinalysis: A Clinical Guide to Compassionate Patient Care*, Bayer Corporation, 1999.  
*Chemstrip*, Boehringer Mannheim Corporation, 1996.

Respectfully submitted by Cherie Heger, MT (ASCP).

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