**To:** Dartmouth Health System Providers

**From:** K. Aaron Geno, PhD, DABCC, Assistant Director of Clinical Chemistry

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**Date:** November 19, 2024

**RE:** Updated Specimen Criteria for Performance of Urine Protein Electrophoresis

**What is changing?**

Effective today, November 19, electrophoresis orders on urine specimens with total protein concentrations of 6 mg/dL or less will be canceled for patients without history of monoclonal protein(s).

Testing of urine specimens from patients with newly or historically identified monoclonal protein(s) is not affected by this change.

**Why are we making this change?**

Testing of these specimens provides little benefit but results in unnecessary expense to our patients and takes valuable time from laboratory staff.

A two year retrospective analysis found that out of 797 urine samples with total protein of 6 mg/dL or less in patients without a history of monoclonal protein(s), only 3 samples were suspicious for a monoclonal protein on electrophoresis, and all 3 were negative on follow-up studies by immunofixation. In addition, these samples require a disproportionate amount of laboratory effort due to the need to extensively concentrate them prior to analysis.

**What do I do if I want the sample tested regardless?**

Please contact the laboratory at 603-650-2200. Samples are held for 6 days.

**For questions or additional information, please contact:**

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