**To:** Dartmouth Health Providers

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**Date:** March 5, 2025

**Re:** Reference Interval Change – Whole Blood and Plasma Lactate

**Situation**

In keeping with the “Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3)” guidance document, the whole blood and plasma lactate reference intervals will be changing to better align with this published sepsis protocol.

**Background**

DHMC and the Emergency Department are instituting changes to their sepsis protocol in keeping with the Sepsis-3 guidance document. In order to align with the revised protocol, the reference intervals for whole blood and plasma lactate will be changing from 0.5 – 2.2 mMol/L to 0.4 – 1.9 mMol/L. The critical threshold of >3.9 mMol/L will remain unchanged.

**Assessment**

The laboratory is making a change to the reference intervals for whole blood and plasma lactate on March 11, 2025 in order to better align with the updated DHMC sepsis protocol.

**Recommendation**

Providers should expect to see a greater number of flagged whole blood and plasma lactate results as the upper end of the reference interval has been lowered from 2.2 mMol/L to 1.9 mMol/L. There are no changes to the critical threshold.

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

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