

mainliner

ISSUE 18 DECEMBER 2017

Christmas & New Year hours

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
18 Dec Normal	19 Dec Normal	20 Dec Normal	21 Dec Normal	22 Dec Normal	23 Dec Closed	24 Dec Closed
25 Dec Closed	26 Dec Closed	27 Dec Normal	28 Dec Normal	29 Dec Normal	30 Dec Closed	31 Dec Closed
1 Jan Closed	2 Jan Closed	3 Jan Normal	4 Jan Normal	5 Jan Normal	6 Jan 9-11am*	7 Jan Closed

*New Plymouth only



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from all
the Medlab staff.

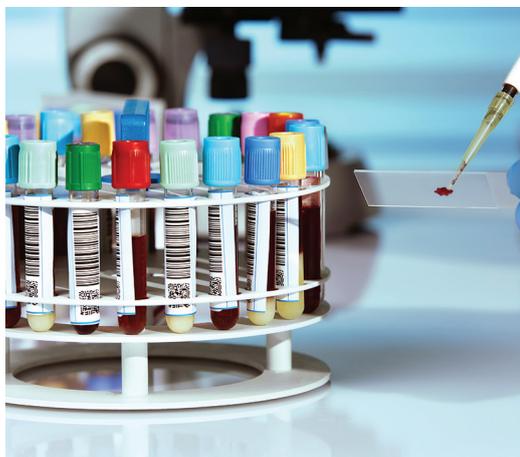
Rest Home Visits

If your Rest Home is normally visited on a Tuesday, you will be visited on Wednesday 27th December 2017 and Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Pseudohyperkalaemia

Serum Potassium measurement is subject to falsely elevated levels in a number of patients. This may lead to patients being referred for further testing or treatment, or the normalisation of hypokalaemic patient's results.

Taranaki Medlab routinely performs electrolyte analysis on serum, which will contain the potassium released from platelets during coagulation.



If the platelet count is greater than $500 \times 10^9/L$, an elevated potassium result should be interpreted with caution.

Studies have shown that the serum potassium level relative to the plasma potassium level may be 0.5mmol higher when platelet counts exceed $500 \times 10^9/L$, with a sensitivity of 71% and specificity of 89%, and there is a linear relationship between the platelet count and the increase in serum potassium.

Fragile cell membranes of white cell neoplasms with markedly increased white cell counts may also release significant amounts of potassium into the serum.

In order to obtain an accurate potassium level on these patients, a plasma level is required. Please make a note on the request form, that a green top specimen is required, so that our phlebotomists collect the specimen into the appropriate tubes.

Tumour Markers

For the serial monitoring of tumours, tumour markers should be tested on the same laboratory platform. Both laboratories in Taranaki are aligned. But tumour marker results from outside of Taranaki should be compared with caution.

Occult Bloods

Faeces – Three specimens collected with at least **24** hours between them. Specimen must be received at the laboratory same day as collection.

Please explain to your patients that samples need to be collected on different days.

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