

## **Chemistry Testing – Reducing Specimen Storage Time at the MC Richmond Clinical Chemistry Lab**

**Effective 9:00am, Tuesday October 1st, 2024, the specimen storage duration for Chemistry specimens will be reduced from 5-days to 4-days at the Main Campus Richmond VCU Health Clinical Chemistry Laboratory.** Updates have been made in EPIC to align with the add-on acceptability time frame.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Clinical Chemistry laboratory uses an automated specimen storage module (SRM) to store and retrieve specimens for add-on testing requests. The SRM has reached storage capacity limitations due to the volume of samples received in the laboratory. The current practice of storing specimens for 5 days causes delays in testing while storage space is identified and is not sustainable.

Changing the specimen storage from 5 days to 4 days will enable efficient operation of the automated storage system. This change will shorten the length of time specimens are available for add-on test requests. Data has shown that 99.8% of add-on requests are made within 4 days.

**For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at (804) 828-7284.**