



TO: VCU Health Physicians, House staff, and Nurses

FROM: Lorin Bachmann, PhD *LB*
Co-Director, Clinical Chemistry

Susan D. Roseff, MD *ADR*
Chair, Division of Clinical Pathology

DATE: May 1st, 2023

SUBJECT: Procalcitonin Testing Available In-House Effective May 3rd, 2023

Effective **May 3rd, 2023**, the VCUH Clinical Chemistry laboratory will implement in-house testing for **Procalcitonin (PCT)**.

Procalcitonin will be orderable:

For patients < 18 years of age: STAT or Routine priority

For patients > or = 18 years of age: Routine priority only

The following reference intervals and interpretive comments will accompany the results:

Procalcitonin Reference Interval: ≤ 0.50 ng/mL

Procalcitonin Interpretive Comments (for Adults):

PCT (Adult) > 0.50 ng/mL: A PCT level between 0.51 ng/mL and 2.00 ng/mL should be interpreted in the context of the specific clinical background and condition of the individual patient. A PCT level above 2.00 ng/mL on the first day of ICU admission is associated with a high risk for progression to severe sepsis and/or septic shock.

PCT (Adult) ≤ 0.50 ng/mL: A PCT level at or below 0.50 ng/mL on the first day of ICU admission is associated with a low risk for progression to severe sepsis and/or septic shock.

No critical values are defined for the test.

Interpretive information has been established in collaboration with the VCU Adult Antimicrobial Stewardship (ASP) team and Pediatric Infectious Disease (see attached references and algorithms for adult and pediatric interpretive guidelines).

Please contact Lorin Bachmann PhD, Dept of Pathology at lorin.bachmann@vcuhealth.org, Jonathan Silverman MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine at jonathan.silverman@vcuhealth.org or Sangeeta Sastry MD, Director, VCU Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, at Sangeeta.Sastry@vcuhealth.org with any questions or concerns.

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