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TO:           **REFERRING CLIENTS**

FROM:       Barb Baltzer, Coordinator  
              Laboratory Reference Centre  
              Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program

DATE:        January 13, 2012

SUBJECT:     **Chromogranin A – Change in Method**

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On January 16, 2012 the ELISA method for Chromogranin A is changing from ALPCO to DAKO. This is a reversion to the method in use prior to 2007. The ALPCO method came into use because of a supply and distribution problem experienced by DAKO in Canada.

**New Reference Range and Units (DAKO): Less than or equal to 14 U/L**

The ALPCO method was satisfactory in terms of precision and reproducibility from the laboratory's point of view. An extensive clinical study is being conducted to correlate results with the clinical condition. Preliminary results from the study indicate the urgent need to change to DAKO, which best discriminates patients with Neuroendocrine Tumors from normal healthy subjects. The supply and distribution problems are unlikely to recur.

Please note that ALPCO results correlate poorly with DAKO results. (Correlation coefficient 0.563)

Specimen collection procedures are unchanged: Submit two 1 mL Plasma (EDTA) aliquots. Store and send frozen. If the specimen thaws, it is unsuitable for analysis.

If you have further questions, please contact our Customer Service at 905-577-1477.