



laboratory  
reference  
centre  

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Service Education Research

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TO:           **REFERRING CLIENTS**

FROM:       Barb Baltzer, Coordinator  
              Laboratory Reference Centre (LRC)  
              Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRLMP)

DATE:       September 27, 2012

RE:           **Factor 2 Echis**

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The functional levels of coagulation Factor II (measured using a prothrombin time [PT] that requires factor II bind to phospholipids), and Factor II Echis (which is the level of factor II measured using a venom that directly activates factor II, without requiring factor II binding to membranes) are complementary functional tests of Factor II in plasma. When these tests are run in parallel, and the levels are compared, the findings can help differentiate between low levels of Factor II from vitamin K deficiency or recent warfarin therapy (factor II measured by the PT reagent is much lower than the level measured with the Echis reagent) from low levels due to other causes, such as liver disease, and less frequently, an inherited deficiency, hemodilution, or consumption (parallel reductions in the levels of factor II measured by both reagents are seen). The Factor II Echis is not a stand alone laboratory test.

Effective immediately, when a Factor II Echis is ordered, a Factor II will be performed and billed along with the Factor II Echis. The rationale is that both tests are needed to allow for appropriate interpretation of the Factor II Echis results.

**For Medinet (HL7) Interfaced Clients:**

**REF CODE:** F2E

**RES CODES:** FAC2B

Factor II-Biological  
Units: U/mL

FAC2E  
Factor II-Echis  
Units: U/mL

If you have further questions about the testing, please contact :

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