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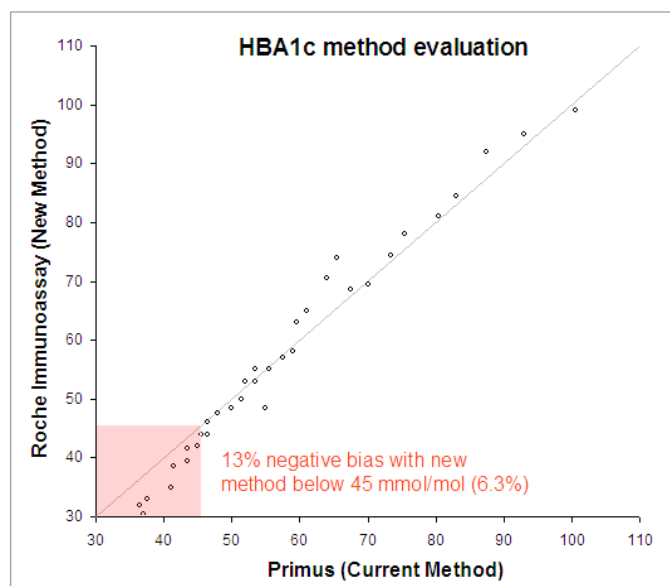
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Dear Colleague

Re: HbA1c METHOD CHANGE - IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

From 17th September we are changing our method for assay of HbA1c assay from the current Primus boronate-affinity HPLC technique to Roche immunoassay. The main driver for this is that our current system is over 10 years old and we are experiencing reliability and support problems. The decision to use the Roche immunoassay is based on extensive data showing good precision (better than our current method) and improved turn around times achievable with this automated method.

Comparison studies between the Roche immunoassay method and that of our current (Primus) method show good correlation. However, there is a slight negative bias shown by the Roche method with HbA1c values below 45mmol/mol (6.3%), as shown in the graph below.



This negative bias at low levels should not affect monitoring of known diabetics, given that the majority of these patients have an HbA1c greater than 45 mmol/mol. However, with all methods values lower than 45 mmol/mol should be used with caution for diagnosis of impaired glucose tolerance.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Dr Manal Elnenaei (extension 3015).

Kind regards

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