



Memo No. 2018-015
Date: 13-Mar-2018
Memo To: Clients
Re: Test Site Revision – Vitamin B1 **Effective 16 April 2018**

Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) analysis is most often requested in plasma or whole blood specimens. While less than 10% of blood Vitamin B1 is in plasma, earlier availability of plasma bio-assays established plasma as the frequently-ordered test for Vitamin B1. In fact, whole blood is the superior test for the assessment of body stores (thiamine deficiency), with better sensitivity and specificity than plasma analysis.

The Vitamin B1 whole blood HPLC assay measures the primary active form Thiamine diphosphate and is technically superior with better accuracy, better reproducibility and decreased analytic time (hence faster turnaround time).

ICL presently offers both plasma and whole blood Vitamin B1 analysis, performed at the Special Biochemistry lab at London Health Sciences Centre, London, ON. The lab will discontinue plasma Vitamin B1 analytical service effective 16 April 2018. Whole blood analysis will continue being offered, the test of choice for assessment of Vitamin B1 body stores.

Recommendation: Whole blood Vitamin B1 analysis should be the test of choice for assessment of Vitamin B1 status and plasma analysis is strongly discouraged and should not be routinely available.

Clients presently ordering plasma Vitamin B1 should plan a transition to whole blood Vitamin B1. ICL will communicate details if and when an alternate site is available for plasma analysis.

VITAMIN B1, WHOLE BLOOD

ORDER CODE: VITB1 WBLON **RES CODE:** 62126 VITAMIN B1,WHOLE BLOOD **UNITS:** nmol/L

If you have further questions please contact Client Care at (416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 or info@ICLabs.ca

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