



# Physician News Brief

NEWS ABOUT COVENANT HEALTHCARE FROM  
The Office of Physician Relations & Regional Outreach

MARCH 1, 2018

## Mark your Calendars- Active Medical Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 20 is the next All Active Medical Staff meeting located in the Spencer T. Maidlow Cooper Lecture Theatre. Lunch is served at 11:30 and the meeting is called to order at noon. For any questions, please contact the Medical Staff Office at 583.6895.

## Laboratory Services- Update Re: Biotin

On November 28, 2017, the FDA issued a Safety Communication warning to the public and all healthcare providers that "Biotin May Interfere with Lab Tests." Covenant Laboratory has identified the tests that use biotin technology and may be affected by dietary/therapeutic supplements in patient samples. Our system provider, Siemens Healthcare, is investigating the level of interference at a 10% or greater bias due to Biotin at a certain level. A comment will be added to the results that may be affected by biotin. For additional questions please contact the Chemistry Lab at 583.6782.

## Laboratory Services- Update Re: Group A Plasma

Effective March 3, 2018, emergency release of thawed Group A plasma during emergent and massive transfusion protocol (MTP) events will be initiated to all patients of unknown blood group or if compatible plasma is not immediately available. Multiple studies have shown no increased mortality/morbidity and no reports of hemolytic transfusion reactions from the transfusion of Group A plasma to Group B and AB patients. The approach is to issue Group A thawed plasma as the initial plasma product in the emergency release setting and then switch to ABO- identical or ABO compatible plasma, if needed, once the patient's blood group has been determined. The intent of this change is to save the limited supply of Group AB plasma for our Group AB patients and meet the immediate plasma needs for our emergent and MTP patients.

## Updated Contact Information Needed

Keep your contact information up to date with the Medical Staff Office (MSO), especially your email address. An important communication went out from Dr. Michael Sullivan, CMO, about Opioid Legislation and CME opportunity and many emails were returned. Important information from the MSO is shared with providers using email. Update your email address or your preferred email contact (office manager, etc.) with the MSO by emailing [wmilitello@chs-mi.com](mailto:wmilitello@chs-mi.com) or calling the MSO at 583.6595.



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