

May 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Customers and Colleagues

FROM: Scott Grady, Portfolio Marketing Manager, Diagnostic Laboratories

RE: CLINICAL RETIREMENT OF VWF RISTOCETIN COFACTOR ACTIVITY – JULY 1, 2018

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BloodCenter of Wisconsin will retire the von Willebrand Factor (VWF) Ristocetin Cofactor Activity (Test Code 1061) from our clinical test menu, **effective July 1, 2018**. The VWF GPIbM Activity (Test Code 1070), a superior measure of von Willebrand factor (VWF) activity, is advancing diagnosis and treatment of von Willebrand Disease (VWD) and has replaced VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity in BloodCenter's clinical VWD diagnostic portfolio.

The VWF GPIbM Activity (offered at the **same cost** as the VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity) employs patented technology that measures VWF platelet binding function with improved precision and sensitivity; essential for the accurate evaluation of a patient with concern for VWD. In addition, the VWF GPIbM Activity is not subject to falsely low values seen in individuals who possess the common p.D1472H polymorphism, found in 63% of African American and 17% of Caucasian healthy individuals, or the rare p.P1467S variant<sup>1</sup>. Both of these confound the accurate diagnosis of von Willebrand disease. In August 2017, the VWF GPIbM Activity replaced the Ristocetin Cofactor Activity in the BloodCenter of Wisconsin reflexive VWD Diagnostic Evaluation (Test Code 1060).

Reliable detection of qualitative VWF defects is critical for making an accurate diagnosis of VWD in patients. By clinically obsoleting the VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity in favor of the VWF GPIbM Activity, practicing hematologists can be more confident in providing care that produces results that best reflect the clinical scenario of the patient.

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**VWF GPIbM Activity**

**Order Code: 1070**

*Ristocetin-independent activity assay, a replacement for VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity with superior precision and sensitivity*

Sample Requirements:	Citrated Plasma (light blue top)	Requisition:	Hemostasis Testing
Requested Volume:	0.5 ml	Method:	ELISA
Min/Pediatric Volume:	0.2 ml	CPT Codes:	85397
Shipping:	Frozen	TAT:	7 days

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Please note that the VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity will remain available for clinical trial and research services.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Client Services team at:

Phone: 800-245-3117, ext. 6250

Fax: 414-937-6206

E-mail: [LabInfo@bcw.edu](mailto:LabInfo@bcw.edu)

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1. Flood VH, Gill JC, Moratek PA, Christopherson P, Friedman KH, Haberichter SL, Hoffman RG, Montgomery RR. Gain-of-function GPIb binding ELISA assay for VWF activity in the Zimmerman Program for Molecular and Clinical Biology of VWD. *Blood* 2011; 117: e67-74.