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To: Chad Johnson, Quality Assurance Manager
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From: Brett Trotter, Forensic Scientist Supervisor / Technical Leader *BT*

Date: April 14th, 2023

Subject: Marquis Procedural Blank

While training new scientists in the Forensic Chemistry Unit at the Jackson Regional Crime Laboratory, it became apparent that scientist throughout the state were not performing the procedural blank for the Marquis reagent chemical color test consistently. Some analysts were examining the reagent in its container to verify that it was clear and colorless, while other analysts were performing their blanks by placing an amount of the reagent into the same or similar vessel as they were testing their unknown. While both ways of checking the reagent verify that the reagent is fit for use, I sent a statewide e-mail on April 13th, 2023 to all trainees and scientist in the Forensic Chemistry Unit asking them to perform a procedural blank when conducting the Marquis color test. I plan to verify during the remaining 2023 internal audits at the Knoxville and Jackson Regional laboratories (the Nashville Regional Laboratory had already been audited before the issue was noticed) that procedural blanks are understood and being performed for various types of testing. Analysts in the Nashville laboratory were notified in the previously mentioned e-mail and the topic was addressed in a section meeting and individual conversations.



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