Alberta Health Services

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: April 21, 2015
To: North, Central, and Edmonton Zones - Physicians, Nursing Staff, Laboratory Managers and Laboratory Staff
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: New Platelet Investigation test codes

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Key Messages:

As of May 1, 2015, the PLTIN test code for platelet antibody investigations will no longer be in use. Three new test codes will replace PLTIN to ensure that the most appropriate testing is performed:

- PLTNA – Investigation of neonatal allo-immune thrombocytopenia
- PLTRE – Patients refractory to platelet transfusion (MUST ensure a valid 1-hour post-transfusion platelet count is documented on requisition)
- PLTPT – Investigation of post-transfusion purpura

Detection of platelet glyocoprotein alloantibodies and Class I HLA allo-antibody may be indicated in specific hematological disorders such as fetal/neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (NAIT) or post-transfusion purpura (PTP). An algorithmic approach is recommended for platelet refractoriness – if the patient fails to increment to group specific products (confirmed with a 1 hour post transfusion platelet count) then the initial step would be to evaluate for Class I HLA alloantibody before proceeding to other investigations. Test methodology and criteria for approval are not affected by this change in test codes.

Why this is important:

- Testing will continue to be subject to approval by the Director of Transfusion Medicine and may be cancelled upon receipt in the laboratory.
- Clinical history must be provided on the Histocompatibility requisition; incomplete requisitions may be cancelled upon receipt.

Action Required:

- The revised Histocompatibility requisition is available on the Alberta Health Services website. It can be located using the following link: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3320.asp
- Alternatively, a print version is available through DATA Group (form # CH-0319). Requisitions can be ordered at www.datagroup.ca/ddm7 (after self-registering), or Data Group can be reached at 780-577-8295 or ahsedmonton@datagroup.ca.
- Please see the AHS Laboratory Services Edmonton Zone Online Test Directory for collection information: http://www4.albertahealthservices.ca/labservices/mmenu.asp

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Director, Transfusion Medicine Laboratory
  susan.nahirniak@albertahealthservices.ca
- Christine Yamniuk, Supervisor, Histocompatibility Laboratory
  Christine.yamniuk@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by: Dr. Patricia Campbell