

DATE:	2021 May 17
TO:	Lethbridge and Area Physicians and Submitting Care Providers
FROM:	South Zone West (SZW) Microbiology Laboratory, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Change of Urine Colony Count Format

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Key Message

- Effective 2021 May 19, the reporting format of urine culture colony counts from the Chinook Regional Hospital Microbiology Laboratory will change to the following:

Previous Colony Count Report	New Colony Count Report
<10E6 CFU/L	<1X10E6 CFU/L
<10 x 10E6 CFU/L	1X10E6 - 1X10E7 CFU/L
10 – 99 X 10E6 CFU/L	1X10E7 - 1X10E8 CFU/L
≥100 X 10E6 CFU/L	≥1X10E8 CFU/L

- As before, diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections should be based on symptoms, as asymptomatic bacteriuria is common and treatment is not indicated in most non-pregnant individuals.

Background

- The previously used format for reporting colony counts does not adhere to conventions of scientific notation and is not in use elsewhere in the province.
- With the implementation of Connect Care in South Zone in 2022, the format of colony count reporting will need to be standardized provincially. Standardizing the format now will reduce the changes needed during the launch of Connect Care.
- As before, uropathogens in colony counts of $\geq 10^7$ CFU/L are considered likely to be pathogenic in patients with symptoms consistent with UTI. However, lower concentrations may be pathogenic in the appropriate clinical setting.

Action Required

- Be aware of the new colony count format for proper interpretation of urine culture results.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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