

Date: June 26, 2012
To: All Zones: Physicians, Nursing Staff and Laboratories
From: AHS Laboratory Services - Chemistry Network
Re: Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Phenotype

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Key Message:

Effective July 3, 2012, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* will provide Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Phenotype testing for the province of Alberta. The testing performed at *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* will use an isoelectric focusing immunofixation methodology.

Why this is important:

Deficiencies in Alpha 1-Antitrypsin (A1AT), the major serum serine protease inhibitor, are hereditary and may lead to lung damage and contribute to liver disease. In conjunction with A1AT Quantitation testing, the detection of A1AT phenotypes assists in identifying individuals who might be at risk for these diseases. Currently, the A1AT Phenotyping test is referred out of the province.

Action Required:

Ordering Guidelines and Testing Algorithm for A1AT Phenotyping

- If A1AT Quantitation is ordered and the result is less than 0.9 g/L, the A1AT Phenotyping will be performed automatically.
- If A1AT Phenotyping is ordered without the A1AT Quantitation, the A1AT Quantitation will be performed prior to the A1AT Phenotyping. If this result is less than 0.9 g/L the A1AT phenotyping will be processed.
- If A1AT Phenotyping is required for familial studies, indicate "Familial Study" on the requisition and consult with the Clinical Chemist prior to sample collection.

Reporting

- A1AT Phenotype reports will include interpretive report comments provided by the Clinical Chemist.
- Results will be available in Netcare under the Chemistry section

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Trefor Higgins, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* Clinical Chemist at 780-451-3702 (ext 8134) or
Dr. Kareena Schnabl, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* Clinical Chemist at 780-451-3702 (ext 8154)

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James C. Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services
Dr. Leland Baskin, Medical Director, Calgary Laboratory Services
Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}*
Dr. Wai Chow, Medical Director, Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory