

Date: April 27, 2012

To: Former Aspen, East Central and Northern Lights areas: Physicians, Nursing

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Discontinuation of Urine Reducing Substances and Fecal Reducing Substances Tests

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Key Messages:

Effective April 16, 2012, Urine Reducing Substances (URED) and Fecal Reducing Substances (FRED) testing was discontinued because manufacturing of the testing tablets has been discontinued due to lack of demand.

Alternate testing, based in Edmonton, can be ordered as listed in the table below.

Why this is important:

Both URED and FRED lack specificity. URED reacts with any reducing substance in the urine. Low specific gravity urines containing glucose can yield falsely positive results.

Similarly, URED and FRED lack sensitivity. Metabolites of sulpha drugs as well as X-Ray contrast media can interfere with URED's sensitivity. FRED has poor sensitivity for oligosaccharides. Fecal bacteria consume reducing substances, and can result in false-negative results. The following have been documented to cause false positive or false negative FRED results: salicylates, penicillin, chloral hydrate, menthol, phenol, streptomycin, para-aminosalicylic acid, isoniazid, ascorbic acid, cephalosporins, and probenecid.

Action Required:

If...	Then order...
Galactosemia suspected	Serum galactosemia screen (GALWB)
Pentosuria or fructosuria suspected	Urine sugar identification (SUGID)
Sucrase or lactase deficiency suspected	Fecal sugar identification (SUGID)

For additional questions contact:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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