

Date: August 15, 2011

To: Central Zone, Edmonton Zone and North Zone
Physicians, Nursing staff and Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services and DynaLIFE_{Dx}

Re: Centralization of laboratory testing for Anti-tissue transglutaminase IgA (ATTG)

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages

- **ATTG** testing in Northern Alberta will be centralized at the *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* base laboratory on Monday, **August 15, 2011**.
- There will be no changes to the testing methodology or reference ranges.
- Test results will be available in flow sheets on Alberta Netcare. Patient reports will be distributed through established mechanisms.

Ordering Guidelines

- The ATTG test has greater sensitivity for Celiac disease than anti-endomysial antibody (AENDO) and in most cases ATTG is the only test required.
- If an AENDO test is requested, it must be ordered concurrently with the ATTG test order.
- If the patient is IgA deficient, indicate this on the requisition and order both ATTG and AENDO.
- AENDO testing will be performed automatically on all patients less than 2 years of age if the ATTG is negative due to the prevalence of false negative results in this age group.

Why this is important

- Testing platforms are being consolidated to a single testing location for Northern Alberta patients.
- Testing frequency will meet clinical requirements and results will generally be available within 24 to 72 hours of specimen receipt at the *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* base laboratory in Edmonton.

Laboratory Sample Handling Requirements

- There is no change to current processes for specimen collection, handling and shipping.
- Collect a gold top serum separator tube. Allow the specimen to clot for 30 minutes, spin, separate and freeze. Put serum into a transfer tube and send a minimum of 1 mL of serum frozen on dry ice.
- A separate specimen should be submitted for ATTG testing.
- Continue to submit specimens for testing using your current courier processes.

For additional questions contact

- For testing inquiries: Contact the Clinical Chemists at *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* at 780-451-3702 (ext 8134 or 8154).
- For specimen packaging inquiries: Specimen Processing, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}* at 780-451-3702.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, Clinical Department Head, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Edmonton Zone - AHS
Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, *DynaLIFE_{Dx}*