

**Date:** November 27, 2014  
**To:** North Zone – Former Peace Country Health Region  
Laboratories, Physicians, and Nursing Unit Managers  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** BinaxNOW Rapid Malaria Diagnostic Testing

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- Effective Thursday November 27, 2014, BinaxNOW Rapid Malaria Testing will be implemented in the former Peace Country Health region as a supplementary test for diagnosis of malaria.
  - The BinaxNOW Rapid Malaria test is intended to aid in the rapid diagnosis of human malaria infections and to aid in the differential diagnosis of *Plasmodium falciparum* and infections with other less virulent malarial species (i.e. *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, and *P. malariae*).
  - The results of this test are preliminary and will be confirmed by thick and thin smears.
  - The BinaxNOW Malaria test will be included in all malaria orders and it will not be orderable by physicians on its own.
  - Testing sites will be Peace River and QEII. Samples will be referred to these two (2) sites for BINAX NOW testing. All former PCH sites will still perform and interpret the peripheral smear. Thin and thick smears will also be referred to DynaLife, our reference laboratory in Edmonton.
  - Samples positive by any of the three (3) tests, thin smear, thick smear or BinaxNOW will be referred to ProvLab for molecular testing for additional confirmatory and definitive species identification.
  - Results will be reported as:

Positive for <i>P. falciparum</i> , Preliminary result. Slide review and confirmation to follow.
Positive for <i>P. vivax</i> and/or <i>P. malariae</i> and/or <i>P. ovale</i> . Slide review and confirmation to follow.
Positive for <i>P. falciparum</i> . A mixed infection cannot be excluded. Slide review and confirmation to follow.
Negative (no malaria antigens were detected). Slide review and confirmation to follow.

- **This comment will be appended to all negative results by BinaxNOW testing:** A negative Rapid Diagnostic Test does NOT exclude malaria due to the relatively poor limit of detection of this assay. It does however virtually exclude infection with high parasite load. Health care providers must be sure to review results of confirmatory testing. Please also note that the Rapid Diagnostic Test cannot be used to monitor malaria therapy as it may remain positive for weeks after the infection has been cleared.
- Reference Range : Negative
- Sample requirements: Samples should be drawn in EDTA tubes.

### Action Required:

- No action required

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. Mireille Kattar, Regional Pathologist at 780-407-3373 or [Mireille.Kattar@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Mireille.Kattar@albertahealthservices.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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