

Date: March 28, 2011

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

From: AHS Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone

Re: CA19-9 and Celiac testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Serum Ca 19-9 Testing

Plasma/serum CA19-9 testing referred out from Edmonton is currently sent to the BC Cancer Agency. As of **April 4, 2011**, this testing will move to Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) in order to improve turn around time and make results available in Netcare.

- CLS uses a different method. A split sample comparison can be arranged if needed for interpretation until October 2011.
- The normal range is similar at < 35 KU/l and results agree at this level.
- Positive results from the CLS Roche method can be significantly different from those produced by the Abbott method used in BC.
- Specimens with positive results will be held for 2 months after reporting.
- If the interpretation of serial positive results is compromised by this change of method, the sample can also be analyzed on the old (Abbott) method.
- If a comparison is required, call Client Response at 780-407-7484 with the patient ULI and collection date.

Celiac Testing

Confirmatory testing of all initial positive anti-tissue transglutaminase (ATTG) samples by the anti-endomysial test has been discontinued.

- A false positive rate of 0.3% for our ATTG method was demonstrated over the past 2 years (ie. positive ATTG / negative anti-endomysial = 0.3%).
- This reflex testing therefore does not produce additional information and is not warranted.
- Anti-endomysial testing will continue to be done for patients with known IgA deficiency and those under 2 years old.

For additional questions contact:

Dr. Connie Prosser at 780-407-8492

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head - Edmonton Zone