

Date: November 10, 2015
To: Central Zone – Camrose, Drumheller, Wainwright, Wetaskiwin Hospitals
 Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services – Central Zone
Re: Addition of On-site CRP Testing in Specific Central Zone Laboratories

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective **November 17, 2015**, on-site testing for C-Reactive Protein (CRP) will be available at the following hospital laboratory locations in Central Zone:
 - Drumheller Health Centre (Test Code: CRP)
 - St. Mary's Hospital (Test Code: CRP1)
 - Wainwright Health Center (Test Code: CRP1)
 - Wetaskiwin Healthcare Centre (Test Code: CRP)
- The reference interval at all four sites for males and females (0 – 150 years) is: 0 - 10 mg/L.

Why this is important:

- CRP shows a rapid response to infection and inflammation and correlates well with the severity of inflammation. It increases within an hour of stimulus and returns rapidly to normal following resolution/therapy.
- AHS Laboratory Services recently recommended CRP instead of ESR when investigating inflammation/infection¹.

CRP (mg/L)	
10-40*	Mild inflammation, viral or bacterial infection
40-100*	Moderate inflammation, viral or bacterial infection
>100*	Marked inflammation, severe bacterial infection, vasculitis, severe arthritis

*Estimated concentrations derived from literature values

- On-site testing is expected to significantly decrease the turnaround time for CRP.
- ESR testing will continue to be available for the foreseeable future, however the ordering of it should significantly decrease on account of the on-site availability of CRP.

Action Required:

- Effective November 17, 2015, begin ordering CRP testing on symptomatic testing. Discontinue ordering ESR and CRP simultaneously.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemist, Central Zone at 587-876-4536 or allison.venner@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, Laboratory Service