

**Date:** March 24, 2011

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

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** Centralization of laboratory testing for Homocysteine, Dehydroepiandrosterone Sulfate (DHEAS) and Parathyroid Hormone (PTH) at *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>*

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### Key Messages:

- **Homocysteine** testing will be centralized at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory on Monday, **April 4, 2011**
- **DHEAS** and **PTH** will be centralized at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory on Monday, **May 2, 2011**
- Changes to reference ranges will not be clinically significant.
- Test results will be available in flow sheets on Netcare. Patient reports will be distributed through established mechanisms.

### Why this is important

- Testing for these three analytes will be consolidated to a single testing location to standardize reporting across Northern Alberta.
- Testing frequency will meet clinical requirements and results will generally be available within 24 to 72 hours of specimen receipt at the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory in Edmonton.

### Sample Handling Requirements:

- **Homocysteine Specimen:** EDTA plasma; remove plasma from cells immediately and freeze.
- **DHEAS Specimen:** Serum only; specimen does **not** need to be frozen *unless* there will be a delay of more than 5 days between specimen collection and receipt by the *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* base laboratory. Specimen is stable for 8 days at 2° to 8° C.
- **PTH Specimen:** Serum only; remove serum from cells immediately and freeze. Order calcium or provide calcium test result.
- ***Continue to submit specimens for testing using your current courier processes.***

### For additional questions contact:

- For test methodology inquiries: Trefor Higgins, Director of Chemistry - *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at (780) 451-3702
- For specimen packaging inquiries: Specimen Processing - *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>* at (780) 451-3702
- Outside of Edmonton, call toll free at 1-800-661-9876

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

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Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director - *DynaLIFE<sub>Dx</sub>*