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**Date:** June 28, 2019  
**To:** All Red Deer and Former David Thompson Health Region  
**From:** Physicians Red Deer Regional Hospital microbiology laboratory  
**Re:** Change to Colony Count Reporting Categories for Urine Cultures

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **June 18, 2019**, when required, categories of colony forming unit concentrations per liter (CFU/L) for urine culture isolates will be reported in the following new formats:
  - **< 1 x 10<sup>6</sup> CFU/L** (not previously reported)
  - **1 x 10<sup>6</sup> CFU/L** (same as previously reported)
  - **1 x 10<sup>7</sup> CFU/L** (previously reported as 10 x 10<sup>6</sup> CFU/L)
  - **≥ 1 x 10<sup>8</sup> CFU/L** (previously reported as 100 x 10<sup>6</sup> CFU/L)

**Why this is Important:**

- While numerically equivalent to previous colony count reporting convention, attention should be paid to these new formats to ensure appropriate clinical interpretation.
- The laboratory threshold for automatic full identification and susceptibility testing on non-invasive (midstream and catheter) urine cultures is  $\geq 1 \times 10^7$  CFU/L of pure or predominant uropathogens.
- If additional information or workup is required on urine culture isolates (uropathogens or non-uropathogens) due to clinical concern, contact the **microbiologist-on-call** at **403-770-3899**.

**Background:**

- These changes align with provincial microbiology reporting conventions and with the laboratory information system build for the upcoming Connect Care launch in Red Deer.

**Action Required:**

- No changes to ordering or specimen collection required.
- Refer to the Laboratory Test Directory for urine sample collection and handling instructions.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Michael Groeschel, MD, Medical Microbiologist, South Sector, 403-770-3890, [Michael.Groeschel@albertapubliclabs.ca](mailto:Michael.Groeschel@albertapubliclabs.ca)

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

Deirdre Church, MD, Section Chief Microbiology, South Sector  
Garnet Horne, MD, Regional Lab Medicine Site Chief, Red Deer Hospital Laboratory  
Leland Baskin, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector