Alberta Health Services

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: December 19, 2017
To: All Physicians, Nurses, and Laboratory Services Staff In Northeast Central Zone
From: Central Zone Laboratory
Re: **REVISED:** Changes to Northeast Central Zone Body Fluid Analysis

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Please note these changes will be in effect for body fluid analysis for Northeast Central Zone only to bring in a Zone wide procedure.
- Due to LIS issues and the LIS change freeze over Christmas the **Go Live** date for this has been changed to **January 16, 2018**

- The new ordering codes are as follows:
  - CCFLU is for cell count
  - DIFFFLU is for Fluid Differential

WBC's:

1. FLUID DIFFERENTIAL has to be ordered separately. It will only be performed if ordered and the WBC is ≥ 20 x 10^6/L
2. WBC count <20 is reported as <20 x 10^6/L

RBC's:

1. RBC count is now performed on fluids (except synovial fluids)
2. RBC count <10,000is reported as <10,000 x 10^6/L

Background: Normal Reference Range (cell count) for body fluid:

- Fluid Transudates: RBC <10,000 x 10^6/L
  WBC <1,000 x 10^6/L

- Fluid Exudates: RBC > 10,000 x 10^6/L
  WBC > 1,000 x 10^6/L

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