



Date: December 30, 2019
To: All Physicians, Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and OBGYN, and Midwife Groups
From: Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) and Canadian Blood Services
Re: Changes to the Prenatal Testing Requisition

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective January 7th, 2020, the two-page “Prenatal Testing – Initial Screening for Pregnant Women” requisition will be split into two separate one-page requisitions: one for the Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) for infectious disease testing, and one for Canadian Blood Services (CBS) for ABO/Rh and RBC Antibody testing.
- Requisitions will be available online. Printed versions will not be available.

Background:

- Patient information and test orders were often missed on the 2-page document. Many logistical issues were encountered due to involvement of multiple collection and testing locations.

Actions Required:

Initial screening for pregnant women requires **three** requisitions:

1. [Prenatal Testing Requisition \(Provlab\)](#) – send one serum separator tube
2. [CBS Perinatal Testing for Red Cell Serology Requisition](#) – send one EDTA tube
3. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* testing:
 - North, Edmonton Zones: Routine microbiology requisition
 - South, Calgary Zones: [CLS](#)

ProvLab Infectious Disease Prenatal Requisition:

- Routine prenatal screening includes HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, rubella, and varicella. It is important that this screening occurs early in every pregnancy and that repeat screening occurs in those at ongoing risk of STIs.

What is changing?

- Testing for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* is now recommended in the first trimester for all prenatal women. Third trimester rescreening is recommended for high-risk patient populations only. Full guidelines can be found on the [Alberta Prenatal Screening Guidelines for Select Communicable Diseases](#).
- Syphilis screening is indicated at time of delivery and the initial prenatal screen for all women; both of which are to be ordered using this requisition. More frequent testing should be performed for high-risk populations.
- Opt-out for HIV antibody testing can be indicated in the comments section.
- HCV antibody testing will be performed during a 2-year pilot study to assess the cost-benefit of testing all prenatal women. Testing will be performed between the dates of March 2, 2020 and March 1, 2021.



How do I order testing?

- Please use the [ProvLab Prenatal Testing Requisition](#) to request all infectious disease testing on prenatal women.
- Send requisition and one serum separator tube to ProvLab.

CBS Perinatal Testing for Red Cell Serology Requisition:

What is changing?

- Canadian Blood Services will have ONE perinatal requisition that will combine both initial and follow-up red cell serology testing.

How do I order testing?

- Please use the [Canadian Blood Services Perinatal Testing for Red Cell Serology Requisition](#) to request all perinatal testing on mothers, (their associated paternal partners) and cords.
- Send requisition and one EDTA tube (initial perinatal screen) OR two EDTA tubes (for follow up antibody testing) to CBS.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Carmen Charlton, Clinical Microbiologist ProvLab; (780) 407-8975;
Carmen.Charlton@albertapubliclabs.ca
- Ms. Brenda Caruk, Diagnostic Services Supervisor, Serology, CBS; (780) 431-8725;
brenda.caruk@blood.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical-Scientific Director, Public Health, APL

Dr. Judy Hannon, Medical Director, Canadian Blood Services, Edmonton