

Date: May 17, 2011
To: All Zones
AHS and Community Physicians, all Nursing Staff, Diagnostic Imaging, Pharmacy Services, Public Health, and Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Communication of Laboratory Results – New Laboratory Standard

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages

- New standards have been developed for Communication of Laboratory Results from AHS labs.
- Routine distribution of laboratory results will not change.
- These standards **do not apply** to communication of laboratory results from Environmental Microbiology, Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) and *DynaLIFE_{Dx}*.

Background

- The new Communication of Laboratory Results standards ensure that providers have access to laboratory results in order to make decisions about treatment or care, while at the same time ensuring that the information is transmitted in the most secure way.
- The standard practice across the province ensures compliance with the Health Information Act (HIA), the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP), the requirements of the Laboratory's various accrediting bodies, and all relevant AHS policies.

How this will impact you

- There is no change to routine distribution of laboratory results.
- Critical and notifiable results will continue to be communicated by telephone.
- For **ad hoc** requests for laboratory results, lab personnel will confirm whether the results are in Alberta Netcare and will request that you use Alberta Netcare to view results if possible. If the results are not in Alberta Netcare, or you do not have access to Alberta Netcare, lab personnel will be pleased to issue the results using the next most secure method.
- Consider registering for Alberta Netcare access if you are not already registered. Viewing results in Alberta Netcare is more secure, and may be less time-consuming, than submitting an ad hoc request for results to a Laboratory.

Effective Date

- Implementation of the changes will occur June 1, 2011

Additional Information

If you would like to register to use Alberta Netcare, please contact the Alberta Netcare Deployment Team by phone: 1-866-756-2647 toll free, in Edmonton 780-642-4082, or by email: health.ehrdeployment@gov.ab.ca

Inquiries regarding the AHS Communication of Laboratory Results Standard, please contact Laboratory Client Services at 1-877-868-6848.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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