

Date: October 21, 2019
To: North Zone Physician, Nurse Managers, Laboratory Managers and Staff
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Re: CSF WBC Count Reference Range Update

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective October 16, 2019, the Reference Range for WBC (WBCCSF) count in CSF cell count testing performed at QEII, Peace River, Hinton and Bonnyville labs will be adjusted to standardize with provincial reporting.
- Aligning with provincial standardization will include the removal of a critical range from reporting of the WBC count in CSF testing.

Why this is important:

- Using the correct reference range is required for effective diagnosis and treatment of patients.
- The reference range information will be indicated on the report along with patient sample value.
- With the removal of the critical range, results outside the reference range will no longer be called to the physician.

Action Required:

- Please refer to the following ranges for reference values:

WBC CSF Count

New Effective October 16, 2019			0 - 30 days old	> 30 days old	
	Reference Range	WBC (x 10 ⁶ /L)	0 - 30		0 - 5
Critical	WBC (x 10 ⁶ /L)				
Previous			0 - 1 month old	2 months - 16years	> 16 years
	Reference Range	WBC (x 10 ⁶ /L)	0 - 27	0 - 7	0 - 5
Critical	WBC (x 10 ⁶ /L)	> 27	>7	> 5	

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Brent Mendez, Regional Lab Medicine Site Chief QEII Hospital at 780-538-7417 or by email at: Brent.Mendez@albertapubliclabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)