

Date: June 24, 2013

To: Central Zone
Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Central Zone Urine Collection Procedures

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Urine collection procedures and patient instruction sheets have been updated to ensure that patients across the Central Zone are receiving the same, high quality care. The procedures impact patient collections when the sample is being analyzed within the Central Zone.
- Changes will be effective June 26, 2013.
- Updated documents relevant to your area will be available by contacting your local laboratory.

Action Required:

- Please review the new procedures and patient instruction sheets, as there are some important changes.

Two important messages include:

- When a urine culture and sensitivity test is ordered and testing is being done in the Central Zone, inoculate the urine agar slide within 20 minutes of specimen collection. A minimum of 2 mL is required.
- When a urinalysis test is ordered and testing is being done in the Central Zone, the sample should be sent to the lab within 2 hours of collection. If this is not possible, the sample is acceptable for up to 12 hours if it is kept refrigerated.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Allison Venner, Clinical Biochemist, Central Zone, at: 403-406-5633 or Email: allison.venner@albertahealthservices.ca
- Dr. Robert Rennie, AHS Consultant Microbiologist, Central Zone, at: 780-407-8806 or 780-964-6116

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, AHS Provincial Medical / Scientific Director, Laboratory Services