

**Date:** February 11, 2016  
**To:** North Zone - Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Lab Staff (excluding La Crete, High Level, Fort Vermilion, and Fort McMurray)  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services - North Zone  
**Re:** Discontinuation of Fertility Testing (Semen Analysis) at Rural Laboratories

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### Key Messages:

- Effective March 1, 2016 Fertility Testing (semen analysis) will no longer be performed at rural laboratories within the North Zone (former Aspen and former Peace Country areas). Testing will remain in Grande Prairie, High Level and Fort McMurray.
- Arrangements have been made with the Alberta Health Services Regional Fertility and Women's Endocrinology Clinic (Edmonton) to facilitate one day appointments for patients traveling from North Zone sites. Semen analysis will be performed in the morning, with the physician consult in the afternoon. For those patients wishing other arrangements, this can be arranged with the Clinic but will likely necessitate a follow up appointment.
- Post Vasectomy testing and sperm counts for Intrauterine Insemination (Peace River) will be available as per current test menus at the rural labs.

### Why this is important:

- There is no requirement for semen analysis testing prior to making an appointment with the Alberta Health Services Regional Fertility and Women's Endocrinology Clinic.
- Improved convenience for the patient, with no requirement to provide a second sample.
- Reduction in test duplication.

### Action Required:

- Refer patients requiring Fertility Testing (semen analysis) to the Alberta Health Services Regional Fertility and Women's Endocrinology Clinic; telephone number 780-735-5609. Alternatively, patients can be referred to a North Zone testing laboratory (Grande Prairie, High Level and Fort McMurray).

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, Diagnostic Health - Laboratory & Pathology, North Zone

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, Diagnostic Health - Laboratory & Pathology, North Zone