

Date: June 27, 2013

To: North Zone - Former Peace Country Health Region
Physicians, Nursing, Laboratory Staff

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Discontinuation of Urine Reducing Substances, Fecal Reducing Substances and Stool pH Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- As of June 14, 2013, Urine Reducing Substance (REDUR) and Fecal Reducing Substance (REDSTL) testing will no longer be available at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Laboratory.
- Manufacturing of the testing tablets has been discontinued due to lack of demand.
- Stool pH (PHSTL) testing has also been discontinued at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Laboratory.
- Alternate testing, based in Edmonton, can be ordered as listed in the table below.

Why this is important:

- Both REDUR and REDSTL lack specificity. REDUR reacts with any reducing substance in the urine. Low specific gravity urines containing glucose can yield falsely positive results.
- Similarly, REDUR and REDSTL lack sensitivity. Metabolites of sulpha drugs as well as X-Ray contrast media can interfere with REDUR's sensitivity. REDSTL has poor sensitivity for oligosaccharides. Fecal bacteria consume reducing substances, and can result in false-negative results.
- The following have been documented to cause false positive or false negative REDSTL results: salicylates, penicillin, chloral hydrate, menthol, phenol, streptomycin, para-aminosalicylic acid, isoniazid, ascorbic acid, cephalosporins, and probenecid.

Action Required:

| If... | Then order... |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Galactosemia suspected | Serum galactosemia screen (GALSN) |
| Pentosuria or fructosuria suspected | Urine sugar identification (SUGIDUR) |
| Sucrase or lactase deficiency suspected | Fecal sugar identification (SUGIDSTL) |
| Stool pH | Stool pH (PHSTLRO) |

For additional questions contact:

- Dr. Fiona Bamforth, Clinical Chemist, AHS Laboratory Services at 780-407-7379 or
- Dr. George Cembrowski, Clinical Chemist, AHS Laboratory Services at 780-407-8817

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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