

**Date:** April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**To:** All Central Zone physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Directors and Managers **EXCEPT Vegreville and Camrose**  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services, Red Deer Hospital Microbiology Laboratory  
**Re:** Discontinuation of Urine Dip N Count Media for Microbiology Testing

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Messages:

- Effective April 25, 2016, the Red Deer Microbiology Laboratory will be discontinuing the Dip N Count urine culture media. A new and improved urine method will be implemented that requires a fresh urine sample in preservative.
- The BD Vacutainer® Urine Culture and Sensitivity tube (grey top) will be used for the transport of all urine culture specimens, including pediatric collections and invasive urines (cystoscopy, suprapubic aspirates, nephrostomy, in/out catheters).
- There will be no change to any other urine collection or testing process, i.e. samples for urinalysis, urine chemistry or cytology. Continue to collect these samples as per current guide to services requirements.
- During the transition to the new culture method, both types of transport media will be accepted and processed. There will be no change to culture reporting or final reports.
- If the time from collection to receipt in the laboratory is > 48hrs for a specimen in preservative, the culture results may be unreliable and clinical correlation will be recommended. These specimens will still be processed with a comment added.
- Small volume urine collections for C&S (< 5 mL) should be submitted in orange-top, sterile containers which need to be REFRIGERATED during storage and transported to the RDRHC laboratory with ice packs as soon as possible, not greater than 24hrs from time of collection.
- Urine C&S transport containers that are over or under filled will NOT be processed.

### Why this is important:

- The BD Vacutainer® Urine Culture and Sensitivity Tubes provide many advantages including:
  - More accurate culture results, using additives to preserve the specimen, without requiring refrigeration.
  - Closed system that benefits healthcare workers by reducing exposure to potentially hazardous specimens.
  - Improved safety because plastic vacutainer tubes will not leak in transit
- Proper urine collection methods, to minimize contamination with perineal flora, remain extremely important. Together with the new transport system, the best quality specimen can be provided, ensuring accurate culture results and better patient care

### Action Required:

- Review your current supply of Dip 'N Count media with the expectation to no longer use this product after April 24, 2016.
- Review previously distributed training literature.
- BD Vacutainer Urine Collection System supplies are available through established supply sources (i.e. AHS for AHS hospitals and facilities).

**AHS Supply Ordering Information**

<b>New Product</b>	<b>Part #</b>	<b>Oracle #</b>	<b>Meditech #</b>
<b>Vacutainer Urine C&amp;S Kit</b>	<b>CABD364953</b>	<b>114669</b>	<b>3028595</b>

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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

Dr. Garnet Horne, Central Zone Clinical Department Head, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**Note: Headings may vary depending on the content of the message**