Date: March 9, 2020
To: All Zones, Medical Genetics Clinics and Laboratories, Metabolic Clinics, Physicians / Nurses / Managers / Laboratory Directors
From: Genetics and Genomics
Re: Galactose-1-phosphate quantitation

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective January 6th, 2020, the Genetics and Genomics Biochemical Genetics Laboratories (both Edmonton (North) and Calgary (South)) samples for galactose-1-phosphate quantitation (for the purpose of clinical monitoring of confirmed galactosemia patients) are being sent to a new out-of-province referral laboratory, the London Health Sciences Center Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in London, Ontario. This change is due to the previous out-of-province referral laboratory (i.e., the Diagnostic Services of Manitoba Clinical Biochemistry and Genetics Lab in Winnipeg, Manitoba) having discontinued this test.

- The change in referral laboratory has resulted in:
  1) A change in specimen type requirement to a lavender (K2EDTA anticoagulant) collection tube from the previous green top (heparin anticoagulant) collection tube.
  2) A change to specimen handling: A red blood cell preparation must be performed by the Genetics and Genomics BGLs on these samples prior to send-out. Therefore, upon collection, samples must be kept on ice (NOT FROZEN), and arrive at either BGL no later than 12h00 pm on the day of collection.

Why this is important:

- All healthcare providers that collect specimens need to be aware that the specimen type and sample handling requirements for this test have changed, in order to:
  o Prevent test cancellation due to inappropriate specimen collection and handling
  o Avoid unnecessary repeat collections, potentially leading to patient harm
  o Ensure that viable specimens can be referred out for testing

Action Required:

- Edmonton Zone collection sites should review the file://chfs02/RegLabClinicalSendOuts/Galactose-1-%20Phosphate.doc

- Calgary Zone collection sites should review the Alberta Precision Laboratories Test Directory for Galactose 1-Phosphate and Galactose, Quantitative (G&G South ACH) – Genetics and Genomics. https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=7965&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Newborn Metabolic Screening and Biochemical Genetics Laboratory 1-780-407-8820.
- Alberta Children’s Hospital Biochemical Genetics Laboratory 1-403-955-7379.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics and Genomics, APL
Dr. Carolyn O’Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL

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