

Date: May 25, 2015
To: North, Central and Edmonton Zone Physicians and Health Providers
From: Genetic Laboratory Services, AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Urine Porphyrin Testing - update

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- This update follows a previous Lab Bulletin distributed March 12, 2015. Effective March 3, 2015, 24 hour urine Aminolevulinic acid (ALA) testing is no longer being performed at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) and has been replaced with random urine ALA which is now referred to In-Common Laboratory.
- The urine Porphobilinogen screen (both random and 24 hour) has been discontinued from UAH and replaced with quantitative random urine Porphobilinogen.
- The urine Porphyrin screen no longer includes Porphobilinogen, if Porphobilinogen is required please order quantitative random urine Porphobilinogen.

Why this is important:

- Interpretive reports for urine ALA including reference intervals will be mailed to the ordering and “copy to” physicians. Units of measurement will change from $\mu\text{mol}/\text{V}$ to mmol/mol creatinine.
- Adapting best practice laboratory and clinical porphyria guidelines ensures optimal specimen quality and timely reporting of accurate results.

Action Required:

- Ordering physician must provide patient history on the requisition.

Additional Resources:

- For AHS Edmonton Zone sites, urine Aminolevulinic acid (ALA) collection, handling, and shipping information is available in the Clinical Referred-Out Testing (CROT) database.
- **DynaLIFE_{dx}**, North zone, and Central zone:
 - Refer to **DynaLIFE_{dx}** test directory for UPBG and urine Porphyrin screen.
- Contact Client Response at: 780-407-7484 for further information regarding urine ALA.
- Specimen collection and processing information for urine porphyria testing is available in the AHS Edmonton Zone test directory.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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