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**Date:** August 6, 2015

**To:** All Physicians, All Zones, Infectious Disease Physicians, Gastroenterology Physicians and Hepatology Physicians

**From:** Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

**Re:** Hepatitis C Genotyping **\*REVISED\***

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**This is a corrected bulletin and replaces the previous bulletin issued on July 29, 2015.**

**Key Messages:**

- Hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotyping requests are required to determine appropriate treatment therapy.
- Currently, HCV genotyping requests are performed only when requested by the physician.
- As of August 10, 2015, all first time HCV PCR positive specimens with viral loads >500 copies/ml will automatically undergo HCV genotype determination, without requesting additional samples.
- For samples that have <500 copies/ml or have insufficient remaining volume, genotype testing will not be performed by this reflex testing algorithm.

**Actions Required:**

- Please ensure sufficient sample volume is submitted for HCV viral load testing and HCV genotyping
- **(2 full SST blood tubes)**. Detailed information about these tests can be found in the ProvLab Guide to Services on the ProvLab website ([www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf](http://www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf)).

**Why this is important:**

- ProvLab is working with its partners in infectious disease and hepatology to optimize the testing of specimens for HCV nucleic acid tests and developing cost effective testing strategies. This work will improve turn around time for genotype result (as a second specimen is not required), and will eliminate the requirement for duplicate viral load testing on the follow up sample.

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

Dr. Carmen Charlton, Clinical Microbiologist ProvLab; (780) 407-8975;  
Carmen.Charlton@albertahealthservices.ca

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

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, ProvLab