

Date: August 12, 2014
To: Alberta Gastroenterologists
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Infliximab testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Infliximab and ATI testing has been provided for Alberta by the University of Alberta Hospital since January 2014. Some problems have recently arisen which need to be addressed.

Infliximab testing is funded by AHS for assessing patients who lose response or have an adverse reaction to the drug. Funding was not granted for therapeutic drug monitoring. These samples, however, were not cancelled as the number of requests was low and it was assumed that these were problematic patients. The number of requests has escalated and the volume of test requests now exceeds the funding available. In addition these samples are not being collected at trough making the value of the result questionable.

Effective immediately:

- Specimens received without a COMPLETED order form will not be processed.
- Levels requested for therapeutic drug monitoring will be cancelled.
- Specimens drawn distant from trough will be cancelled. If the dosing frequency has been shortened to overcome the loss of response indicate this on the order form.

If clinical utility of measuring levels in other situations can be demonstrated and the criteria for ordering and optimum draw time be defined, AHS can be approached to extend funding.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr James Wesenberg