

Date: March 28, 2014

To: North Zone, Central Zone and South Zone
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators and Practitioners, Laboratory Directors
and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: New Hemoglobin A1c Test Utilization Criteria

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Key Messages:

- ***Effective April 15, 2014*** – New provincial Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) test utilization criteria will be implemented by laboratories in North Zone, Central Zone and South Zone.
- Order frequency will be limited to one HbA1c request within a 90 day period.
- Order frequency for pregnant females between the ages of 15 – 45 years (inclusive) will be limited to one HbA1c request within a 30 day period. This is intended for those individuals who are pregnant and require treatment.
- The new criteria align with the following recommendation by the 2013 Canadian Diabetes Association. Can J Diabetes 37 (2013) S35-39

For most individuals with diabetes, A1C should be measured every 3 months to ensure that glycemic goals are being met or maintained. Testing at least every 6 months should be performed in adults during periods of treatment and lifestyle stability when glycemic targets have been consistently achieved.

Action Required:

- Do not order HbA1c with a frequency of greater than once every 90 days:

Exception – for pregnant patients requiring treatment – do not order HbA1c with a frequency greater than once every 30 days.

Why this is important:

- The Laboratory Information System (LIS) will not accept test requests for HbA1c if ordered with a frequency greater than specified above.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Christopher Naugler, Zone Clinical Section Chief, General Pathology, Calgary Laboratory Services at: 403-770-3756 or email: Christopher.Naugler@cls.ab.ca
- Wendy Corbiere, Laboratory Director – North Zone at: 780-826-8254
- Dorothy Ward, Laboratory Director – South Zone at: 403-528-5639
- Camille Bailer, Laboratory Director – Central Zone at: 403-343-4718

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, AHS Laboratory Services