

Date: January 28, 2019
To: All Clinical Staff – (North Sector) Edmonton, North and Central Zones
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: New Test Panels for Urine Toxicology Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

Effective February 4, 2019, the Edmonton Toxicology Laboratory is adding two new drug panels to its testing menu:

- Urine Opioid Dependency Panel (**UODP**)
- Urine General Toxicology Panel (**UGTP**)

The new test codes will **replace** individual test codes which will be inactivated after a four-week transition period on March 4, 2019:

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| • Amphetamine class screen, urine (UAMP) | • Cocaine metabolite screen, urine (UCOC) |
| • Barbiturate screen, urine (UBARB) | • Fentanyl screen, urine (UFENT) |
| • Benzodiazepine screen, urine (UBENZ) | • Methadone metabolite, urine screen (UMETM) |
| • Buprenorphine screen, urine (UBUP) | • Opiates screen, urine (UOP) |
| • Cannabis metabolite screen, urine (UCAN) | • Oxycodone screen, urine (UOXY) |

Why this is important:

- There has been a significant investment of resources in Clinical Toxicology allowing a major paradigm shift in toxicology testing services offered. This shift involves a movement away from urine immunoassay drug testing and its associated limitations towards a definitive technique (mass spectrometry) on all samples. The investment of resources improves the quality of drug test results and at the same time improves overall turn-around time benefiting both the patient and clinician.
- In March 2019, a revised print version of the Edmonton Zone Routine Requisition will become available for use once the current stock is depleted. A print version of the revised requisition is available through DATA group (Form CH-0021). An electronic version of the Edmonton Routine Requisition is available at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-ch-0021.pdf>
- Information regarding these drug testing panels can be found at <http://www.ahsweb.ca/lab/ToxicologyDrugTestingPanel>
- Sample collection/transport requirements are not impacted by this change.
- Sample routing/referral is not impacted by this change (ex. Samples previously routed to Alberta Centre for Toxicology (ACFT) would continue to be routed to ACFT). Community physicians should continue to use the DynaLIFE community requisition; historic ordering practises will continue to be supported at data entry by DynaLIFE staff.
- After March 4th, 2019, all samples will be tested using either UGTP or UODP.
- In Netcare, the resulted panel will display in its entirety when the test is selected. However, on occasion, due to individual sample complexity the drugs detected will display as separate tests.

Action Required:

- Ensure staff are aware of updated Edmonton Zone Routine Requisition and indicate required test panel on new requisition - UODP for Urine Opioid Dependency Program clinics only; all others use UGTP.
- Clinicians should familiarize themselves with tests that are included in the UODP and UGTP panels as per <http://www.ahsweb.ca/lab/ToxicologyDrugTestingPanel>. Testing for drugs not included in the panels should be requested under Other Tests Not Listed. Consultation with the Clinical Toxicologist is encouraged in these situations to determine test availability.



Laboratory Services

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Alberta Health Services Edmonton Zone Guide to Laboratory Services
- Dr. Penny Colbourne, Clinical Toxicologist, University of Alberta Hospital Toxicology Laboratory 780-407-4729

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Penny Colbourne, Clinical Toxicologist, University of Alberta Hospital Toxicology Laboratory