Date: **December 16, 2013**

To: **North Zone – Former Peace Country Health Region**
Physicians, Nurse Managers, Educators, and Practitioners, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services and *DynaLIFEDx*

Re: Reporting Results on Referred Out Pathology Samples - Quality & Patient Safety Initiative

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Re-transcribing of the referred out pathology diagnosis into Meditech ("back order entry") is an opportunity for error and has the potential to impact quality and patient safety.
- In consultation with North Zone senior physician leaders, an alternate protocol for referred out pathology sample management and report delivery will be implemented **in the former Peace Country Health Region.**
- The changed protocol improves quality and patient safety while also supporting physician needs in obtaining access to completed pathology reports in a timely fashion.

Effective January 2, 2014:

- **For those pathology cases performed in Grande Prairie – No changes** will occur. The entire pathology report will continue to be available in Meditech for viewing as soon as the case is finalized by the pathologist.
- **For those pathology cases that are referred out for testing –** Instead of the re-transcribed diagnosis being entered into Meditech (which has the potential for error), these cases will now be resulted in Meditech with the following comment:

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  > *"Sample referred out for testing. See Netcare and/or paper report."*

  This activity will cause the pathology button in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) to turn **RED.**
- The full report for referred out pathology will be available by hardcopy and in Alberta Netcare.
- Netcare can be accessed from the Meditech EMR by clicking the "**Netcare Link**" button on the right EMR menu bar. Clicking on the button will take the user directly to that patient record in Netcare (*Alberta Netcare Portal access is required).*

Action Required:

- Contact Alberta Netcare if portal access is required and/or if you wish to receive group or individual training sessions.
- Call the Alberta Netcare Portal Access Enrolment line at: 1-866-756-2647 or go to: www.albertanetcare.ca

For additional questions contact:

- Carolyn O'Hara, MD FRCPC at: 780-407-3477 or Carolyn.OHara@albertahealthservices.ca
- Mary Melnyk, QE II Laboratory Manager at: 780-538-7410

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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