
Date: May 15, 2014

To: Occupational Health/ Workplace Health & Safety/ Public Health Teams

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Follow-up HCV RNA testing for BBFE (blood and body fluid exposure) incidents

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Follow-up testing for BBFE incidents involving unknown or Hepatitis C positive sources includes an HCV RNA test for the recipient performed at 6 weeks post-exposure, according to Alberta guidelines and WHS protocols.
- The required sample type is a serum as per usual HCV RNA testing.
- The usual indication for HCV RNA testing is for therapeutic response monitoring purposes, which is not the case for BBFE.

Why this is important:

- It is important that the appropriate indication for testing is included on the lab requisition form otherwise the virologist-on-call may end up cancelling the request.
- Cancellation of the test will cause a delay in reporting this result back to the relevant team and delay any appropriate intervention that may be required.

Action required:

- Write clearly: "BBFE follow-up HCV RNA test – please do not cancel", or similar wording on the lab requisition form.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Julian Tang, Virologist, ProvLab at: 780-407-3068 or E-mail: Julian.tang@albertahealthservices.ca
- Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-7121 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)
- Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)