
Date: August 10, 2015

To: TB Physicians in Alberta and Infectious Diseases Physicians - Calgary

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Detection of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* and Rifampin Resistance in *M. Tuberculosis*

Key Messages:

- Effective August 17, 2015, a new PCR based assay system for the detection of *M. tuberculosis* will be implemented at the Provlab south site in Calgary. This PCR based assay will replace the current artus[®] *M. tuberculosis* PCR assay for the detection of *M. tuberculosis*.
- This assay, termed the Xpert[®] MTB/Rif PCR assay, will simultaneously detect the presence of *M. tuberculosis* and rifampin resistance in a single respiratory specimen.
- All smear positive respiratory specimens in Alberta requiring PCR for *M. tuberculosis* will be assayed using this system. The algorithm for the use of the Xpert[®] MTB/Rif PCR assay will follow what has been previously used for the artus[®] *M. tuberculosis* PCR assay.
- NOTE: Only if rifampin resistance is detected (i.e. positive) will the results of the rifampin assay be reported.

Why this is important:

Implementation of the Xpert[®] MTB/Rif PCR assay will:

- Provide rapid PCR results for *M. tuberculosis* detection at a reduced cost compared to previous.
- Provide a rapid assay for the detection of rifampin resistance in *M. tuberculosis*.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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