

Date: April 2, 2013

To: North, Edmonton, Central and South Zone
Dr. Gerry Predy, Dr. James Talbot, Medical Officers of Health, Emergency Physicians,
Nurses, Workplace Health and Safety, Pharmacy, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Rapid HIV Antibody Test Implementation

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective April 2, 2013 at 1000 hours, rapid human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibody testing will be available at laboratories in the facilities listed below.

- North Zone – Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (Grande Prairie); Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (Fort McMurray); Bonnyville Healthcare Centre (Bonnyville)
- Edmonton Zone – Grey Nuns Community Hospital; Misericordia Community Hospital; Royal Alexandra Hospital; University of Alberta Hospital; Sturgeon Community Hospital (St. Albert)
- Central Zone – Red Deer Regional Hospital (Red Deer)
- Calgary Zone – currently provided by Calgary Laboratory Services, at various sites, no change in service
- South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (Medicine Hat); Chinook Regional Hospital (Lethbridge)

Indications for Testing:

The Rapid HIV antibody test is ***restricted to in-patients or those in the Emergency Department*** for one or more clinical indications below:

- Source of blood or body fluid exposure.
- Pregnant female, near term or in labour with either no previous HIV testing OR tested HIV negative more than four weeks prior to delivery and on-going high risk behaviours for HIV acquisition.
- Acutely ill patient with HIV infection in the differential diagnosis.
- Individual presenting with HIV risk behaviours where testing is highly indicated and there is a low likelihood of a follow-up visit to get results.

Do NOT use this test for routine screening, individuals with low-risk behaviours or young children.

Request standard HIV serology for these cases.

Consent for Testing:

- A verbal or signed consent form documenting the patient's decision to be tested for HIV **MUST be obtained by the clinician/healthcare worker and placed** in the patient's chart. The most opportune occasion to obtain their consent is during the pre-test counseling phase.
- **Note: The patient has the right to decline HIV testing.**

Test Ordering:

Designated Hospital Site	How to Order Rapid HIV Antibody Testing
North Zone	Online order entry through Meditech.
Edmonton Zone	Complete the Rapid HIV Antibody Test Request Form http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/LabServices/wf-lab-frm-rapid-hiv-18634.pdf available on the AHS Laboratory Services Website or AHS Edmonton Zone Test Directory at: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3217.asp .
Central Zone	Online order entry through Meditech.
Calgary Zone	No changes to existing process. Refer to Calgary Laboratory Services for information.
South Zone	Online order entry through Meditech.
Workplace Health & Safety	Complete the Rapid HIV Antibody Test Request Form http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/LabServices/wf-lab-frm-rapid-hiv-18634.pdf available on the AHS Laboratory Services Website or AHS Edmonton Zone Test Directory at: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3217.asp .
Clients currently participating in the Rapid HIV Pilot project	Discontinue using existing Pilot Requisition. Complete the Rapid HIV Antibody Test Request Form http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/LabServices/wf-lab-frm-rapid-hiv-18634.pdf available on the AHS Laboratory Services Website or through Meditech as applicable.

- The patient demographic and clinical information is **mandatory** – ensure it is fully completed.
- Rapid HIV test order code is HIVR.

Clinical sample:

- This is a serum based assay; collect a 3 or 5 mL gold top vacutainer tube with gel separator (SST gold top) by venipuncture.

Additional information may be found on the AHS Laboratory Services website at:

- Rapid Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Antibody Test Implementation
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7861.asp>

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-7121 (ask for Microbiologist/Virologist-on-Call)
- Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for Microbiologist/Virologist-on-Call)
- Dr. Kevin Fonseca, Program Lead at Kevin.Fonseca@albertahealthservices.ca
- For advice on laboratory interpretations of the rapid HIV antibody test performed by Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS), phone the CLS Microbiologist-on-Call at: 403-770-3757

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical and Scientific Director, ProvLab

Dr. Mao-Cheng Lee, Co-Associate Medical Director, **DynaLIFE_{Dx}**

Dr. Barbara Popma, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone

Dr. Michael O'Connor, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone

Dr. Robert Rennie, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, AHS Laboratory Services, Edmonton Zone

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