

**Date:** December 6, 2016  
**To:** SZE All Physician/Physician Offices  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services - South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory  
**Re:** South Zone East Laboratory Expansion – Microbiology Semen for Cells Testing

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### Key Messages:

- Effective December 19, 2016, cellular analysis of semen (Semen for Cells) will no longer be available in South Zone East

### Why this is important:

- This test will no longer be available. Other more appropriate tests (detailed below) may be ordered.

### Action Required:

- In patients where infection (e.g. prostatitis) is suspected, semen culture should be ordered.
- In patients being investigated for poor sperm quality, a semen for infertility investigation should be ordered.

### Rationale:

- The current indications for cellular analysis of semen are best investigated by other means. Microbiological culture is superior to cellular analysis for the diagnosis of chronic bacterial prostatitis and other infections. Investigations for sperm quality in the context of fertility testing are best done by formal semen fertility analysis.
- Cellular analysis of semen is ordered very infrequently. Maintaining technical competency in the face of such low volumes is challenging and ultimately impractical.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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