

**Date:** July 31, 2013

**To:** South Zone – West  
Physicians, Nursing Units / Clerks, Laboratories

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services

**Re:** Microalbumin Testing of Visibly Bloody Urine Specimens

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**Key Messages:**

- Effective immediately, the Chemistry department at Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory will no longer process visibly bloody urine specimens for Microalbumin analysis.

**Why this is important:**

- Microalbumin is ordered to detect small amounts of albumin (protein) in urine. The presence of blood elevates the protein and interferes with the interpretation of the result.
- The vendor does not recommend analyzing bloody specimens for Microalbumin.

**Action Required:**

- Do not submit visibly bloody urine specimens for Microalbumin analysis.
- If visibly bloody urine specimens arrive in Chemistry for Microalbumin analysis, they will be rejected as per the [Acceptance of Laboratory Samples and Test Requests policy](#).

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Lorne Kettle, Chemistry Supervisor, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory at: (403) 388-6092.

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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