

Date: March 11, 2015
To: All Physicians, Nurses & Nurse Educators
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Vitamin D availability

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- As of April 1, 2015, Vitamin D testing will no longer be available for population screening. It will be provided only in the presence of clinical indicators/conditions.
- Vitamin D is an essential nutritional element and may also lower risk of some diseases.
- The majority of Albertans would benefit from Vitamin D supplementation BUT do not require regular testing to do so safely.
- Testing should be restricted to patients meeting the following criteria:
 - Metabolic bone diseases
 - Abnormal blood calcium
 - Malabsorption syndromes (celiac disease, small intestine surgery, anticonvulsant agents)
 - Chronic renal disease
 - Chronic liver disease

Why this is important:

- Only Vitamin D test requests that are received on the NEW Vitamin D requisition after April 1, 2015 will be collected and processed by the laboratory.
- All other vitamin D test requests including tests ordered on other requisitions will not be collected. In lieu of the test result, the following message will be received by the ordering practitioner: *Test Cancelled. Effective April 1st, 2015, Alberta is introducing a new protocol for Vitamin D testing requiring all requests be submitted on the new Vitamin D requisition, available on the AHS website. Only requests meeting at least one of the clinical requirements will be collected and processed. For further information on vitamin D testing please visit www.topalbertadoctors.org/cpgs*
- Only Vitamin D test requests meeting one of the approved clinical criteria will be collected and processed

Action Required:

- Order supplies of NEW Vitamin D requisition (**Form # 19500**) prior to April 1, 2015. Requisitions can be obtained via your current supply channels and will also be available after March 15, 2015 on the AHS website located at: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3320.asp> (example requisition attached)
- EMR vendors have been notified and necessary changes to systems will be made.
- For all clinically indicated Vitamin D requests ONLY the NEW Vitamin D requisition will be accepted after April 1, 2015.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, Laboratory Service
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Medical/Scientific Director Edmonton Zone
Dr. Leland Baskin, Medical Director & VP Medical Operations, CLS

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. James Wesenberg, Provincial Medical/Scientific Director, Laboratory Services
Dr. William Hnydyk, Assistant Executive Director, Professional Affairs, Alberta Medical Association

Accession # *(lab only)*

Laboratory Services Vitamin D (25-Hydroxy) Requisition

Vitamin D testing may only be ordered using this form.

For additional information, please refer to the 2014 Vitamin D Clinical Practice Guidelines on the TOP website located at: www.topalbertadoctors.org

For Laboratory hours of operation and contact information please go to www.albertahealthservices.ca

Patient	PHN	Alternate Identifier		Date of Birth <i>(yyyy-Mon-dd)</i>	
	Last Name	First Name	Middle	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Phone
	Address	City/Town	Prov	Postal Code	Location
Requestor (s)	Requestor Name <i>(last, first)</i>	Copy to <i>(last, first)</i>		Copy to <i>(last, first)</i>	
	Location/Facility/Address	Location/Facility/Address		Location/Facility/Address	
	Phone	Phone		Phone	
	Healthcare Provider ID	Healthcare Provider ID		Healthcare Provider ID	
Collection	Date <i>(yyyy-Mon-dd)</i>	Time <i>(24 hr)</i>	Location		Collector ID

Testing Criteria	<p>All medically necessary 25-hydroxy vitamin D testing will be supported by Alberta Health. Any 25-hydroxy vitamin D testing that does not meet the testing criteria listed below will be deemed not medically necessary, and will not be performed. <i>(Check all that are appropriate for your patient)</i></p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Metabolic bone diseases
	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal blood calcium
	<input type="checkbox"/> Malabsorption syndromes <i>(celiac disease, small intestine surgery, anticonvulsant agents)</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic renal disease
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic liver disease
Physician Signature	