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
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

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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. (Check all that are appropriate for your patient)

- Metabolic bone diseases
- Abnormal blood calcium
- Malabsorption syndromes (celiac disease, small intestine surgery, anticonvulsant agents)
- Chronic renal disease
- Chronic liver disease

Physician Signature

19500(2014-07)