Alberta Health Services

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: November 2, 2017
To: North Zone – Physicians, Laboratory Staff
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Westergren Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Reference Range Update

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Key Messages:

- Effective Wednesday, November 1, 2017 North Zone Laboratories will implement new reference ranges for ESR.
- These changes are to standardize ranges and reflect the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Changes will affect the following hospitals and community healthcare centres (CHC):

Locations		
Aspen		
Athabasca CHC	Barrhead CHC	Boyle CHC
Bonnyville CHC	Cold Lake CHC	Edson CHC
Elk Point CHC	Hinton CHC	Seton - Jasper CHC
William J. Cadzow - Lac La Biche CHC	Mayerthorpe CHC	St. Therese - St. Paul CHC
Slave Lake CHC	George McDougall - Smoky Lake CHC	Swan Hills CHC
Wabasca/Desmarais CHC	Westlock CHC	Whitecourt CHC
Peace		
Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	Grande Cache CHC	Peace River CHC
Central Peace HC – Spirit River	Grimshaw/Berwyn CHC	Sacred Heart CHC - McLennan
Fairview Health Complex	High Prairie Health Complex	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie
Manning CHC	Valleyview Health Centre	

Why this is important:

- Using the correct reference range is required for effective diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Action Required:

- Use new reference range to interpret patient results. Laboratory reports will reflect these changes.

ESR Reference Range				
	Age	**(New) Effective Nov 1, 2017**	Previous Aspen	Previous Peace
Male	0-50 years	**0-15 mm/hr**	0-14 years 0-12 mm/hr 15-50 years 0-14 mm/h	0-15 mm/hr
	≥ 51 years	**0-20 mm/hr**	0-19 mm/hr	0-15 mm/hr
Female	0-50 years	**0-20 mm/hr**	0-14 years 0-12 mm/hr 15-50 years 0-19 mm/h	0-20 mm/hr
	≥ 51 years	**0-30 mm/hr**	0-29 mm/hr	0-20 mm/hr

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Sandra Fortier, NZ Consultant Technologist at 780.623.7312
- Dr. Brent Mendez Regional Pathologist North Zone at 780.538.7417

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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