

Date: August 23, 2010
To: Edmonton Zone
 Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) - Administration, Physicians, Nursing Units 30, 40 and 41,
 Out Patient Departments, Clinical Research Unit, Pharmacy, Diagnostic Imaging,
 Radiation Therapy, Nursing Education, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Edmonton and Area - Laboratory Services, Cancer Services
Re: Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Testing

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Key Message:

Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) specimens collected at the Cross Cancer Institute (CCI) are now being referred to DynaLIFE_{Dx} for processing.

Why this is important:

DynaLIFE_{Dx} currently performs Automated ESR testing for patients in the Edmonton Zone. Transitioning ESR testing from CCI to DynaLIFE_{Dx} will provide consistency with ESR result reporting across the Edmonton Zone.

DynaLIFE_{Dx} ESR Testing Information and Collection/Handling Requirements:

Methodology	Automated technology for ESR testing employing the Westergren Method.
ESR Reference Ranges	Adult male: 0 – 15 mm/hr Adult female: 0 – 20 mm/hr 0 - <18yrs: 0 – 10 mm/hr
Result Availability	Test results will be available in flowsheets on Netcare. Patient reports will continue to be distributed through established mechanisms. Test results for most patients will be available within <u>12 hours</u> of specimen receipt at the DynaLIFE _{Dx} Base Laboratory.
Specimen Collection	Tube Type: Excyte (ESR) tube (Black) Order of Draw: The Excyte (ESR) tube is drawn after citrate (Light Blue) and before Acid Citrate Dextrose (ACD) tubes (Yellow).
Specimen Labelling	Due to the design of the instrument, <i>it is essential that patient identifier labels do not obscure the draw lines on the tube. All labels should be placed on the tube immediately under the black stopper and should not extend past the draw line if at all possible.</i>
Specimen Handling	Specimens for ESR testing collected at CCI should be sent directly to DynaLIFE _{Dx} Base Laboratory.
Urgent Requests	STAT ESR testing is <u>not</u> routinely available. This test takes more than 1 hour to complete. If urgent results are required for a specific patient, <i>the ordering physician should contact the Hematopathologist on call.</i>

For additional questions contact:

Test Methodology inquiries: Mark Malick, Core Lab Manager, DynaLIFE_{Dx} at (780) 451-3702
 Specimen Packaging inquiries: Specimen Processing, DynaLIFE_{Dx} at (780) 451-3702

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Fiona Bamforth and Dr. Tom Higa